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WELCOME!

I'll never forget one of the first big shocks I got watching *Supernatural*. It was at the end of season one's *Scarecrow*, when the seemingly innocent Meg Masters turned to the guy who'd picked her up hitchhiking, slit his throat, and used his blood in a ritual to contact her demonic 'father.' It became clear that the villains in the show meant business, and Sam and Dean have met some characters in the course of their hunting who've made evil an art form.

In this issue we take an in-depth look at some of the Winchesters' most formidable foes. Jared and Jensen reveal their favorite monsters and talk about their dark sides, we meet up with the actors who have played some of their best baddies – Katherine Boecher, Rachel Miner, and Jim Parrack – look at the lore behind flesh-eating Ghouls, as well as list *Supernatural* fans' top ten villains, as voted for on *Totalscifionline.com*

Scared yet? You should be!

Neil

Neil Edwards
Editor
The Official Supernatural Magazine

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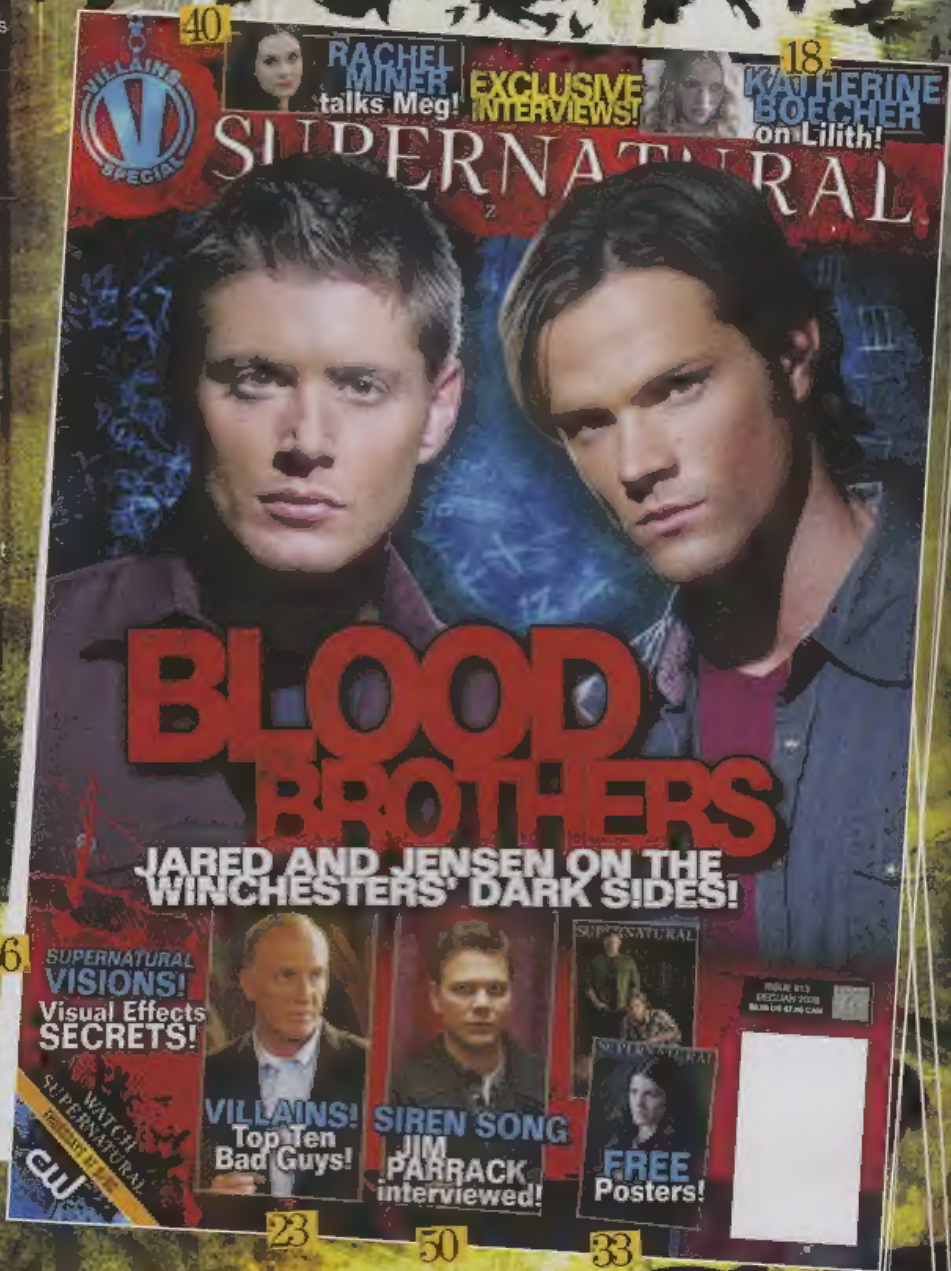

SUPERNATURAL MAGAZINE

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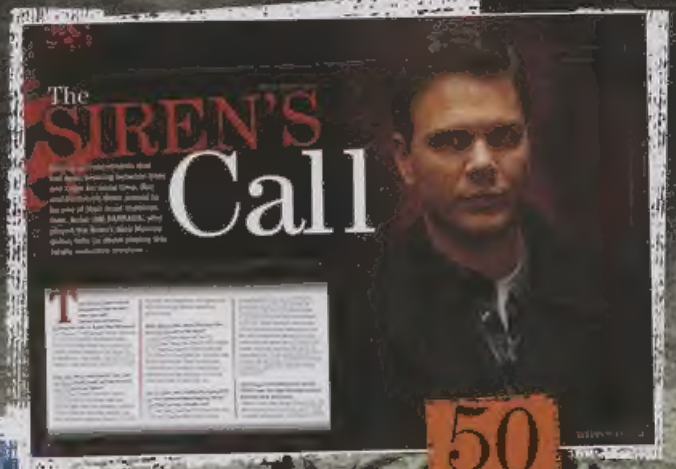

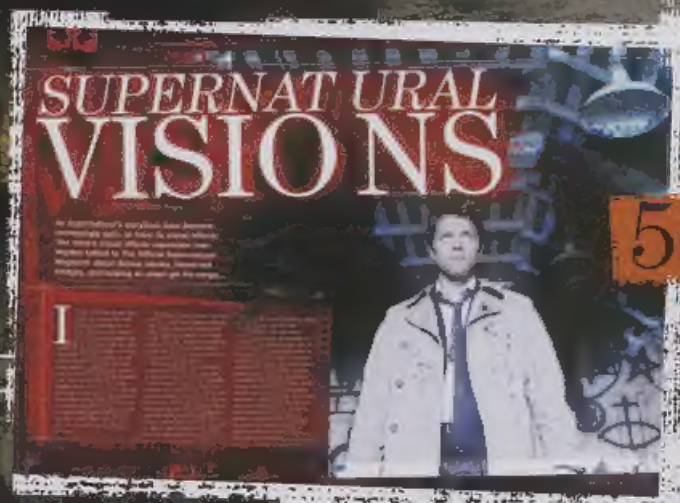

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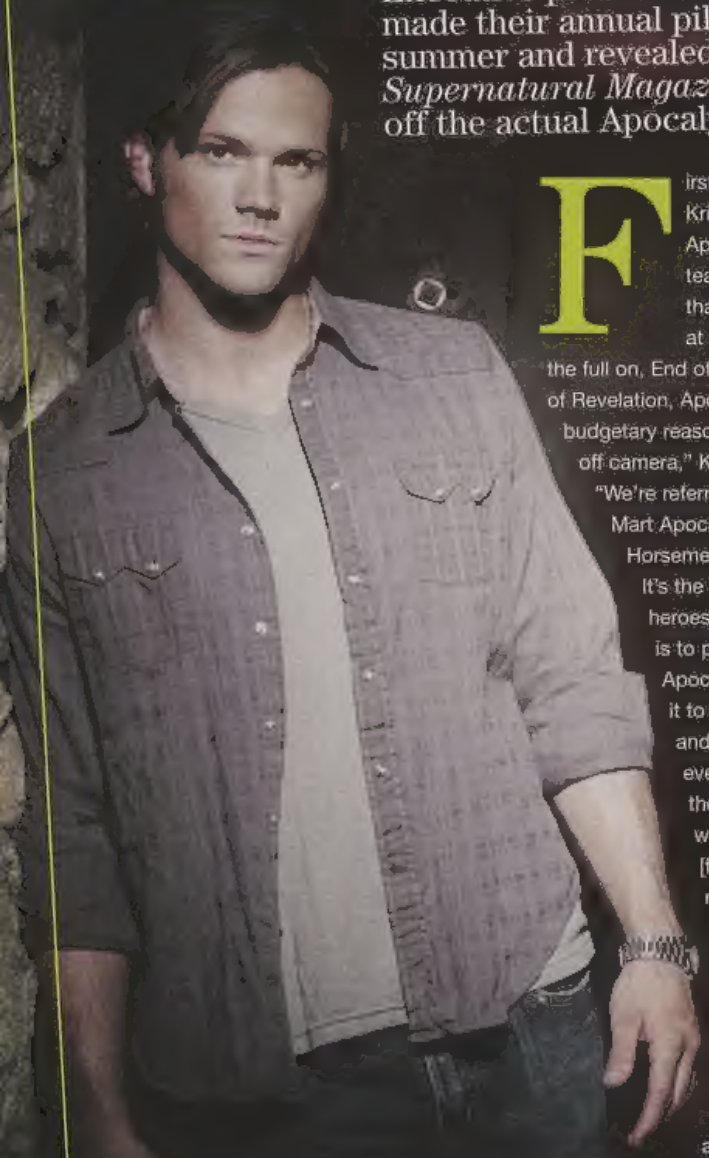
All the latest buzz from the Supernatural universe. Remember, you read it here first...

SUPERNATURAL SECRETS from San Diego Comic-Con

Words: Tara Bennett

Executive producers Eric Kripke, Sera Gamble and Ben Edlund made their annual pilgrimage to San Diego Comic-Con over the summer and revealed plenty of choice details to *The Official Supernatural Magazine* about just how they are going to pull off the actual Apocalypse in the fifth season of *Supernatural*.



First and foremost, Eric Kripke says it *will* be the Apocalypse, not some teased 'faux-pocalypse' that gets yanked away at the last second. "It's the full on, End of Days, out of the Book of Revelation, Apocalypse. But due to budgetary reasons, much of it happens off camera," Kripke chuckles. "We're referring to it as the 'Wal Mart Apocalypse.' But there are Horsemen, the Devil, and God. It's the whole deal, and our heroes' goal of the season is to pull the plug on the Apocalypse. The angels want it to move on to Paradise, and the demons want it too; everyone wants to bring on the prize fight, which is what we introduced in the [fourth season] finale. It really set the stage for what we play out in season five."

Kripke says even with the Apocalypse swirling about Sam and Dean, the season is really going to be about bringing the estranged brothers back into simpatico. "Funnily enough, with it being the Apocalyptic season, in my mind it's one of the most optimistic seasons of *Supernatural* we've done," the creator explains. "We've spent so much time tearing the brothers apart we feel we owe it to the audience to bring them back together. It's going to be slow and painful. They need to come back together older, sadder, wiser, but ultimately stronger. They need to learn to how break their old patterns and forgive each other."

He continues, "For Sam's story, we used the metaphor of an ex-addict trying to reintegrate into his family." Sam was revealed as being addicted to demon blood in season four, and Kripke says that Sam staying off the vein is going to be tough. "When you're in that real life situation it's brutal, because you're met with temptation daily. He's basically an ex-heroin addict surrounded by walking, talking heroin all day. He's trying to resist and he doesn't have the support

of his family because they're hurt and angry and don't trust him. It becomes a real bittersweet and ultimately heroic journey to stay strong no matter what and overcome that. But then Dean isn't entirely without blame. He has to learn how to break his patterns and not treat Sam like a freak, but like a little brother again. We've torn down their relationship and now we're going to rebuild it, block by block, with missteps and detours to wring as much pain out of it as possible. By the end of the season they'll be back together and stronger than ever."

Surrounding our heroes' journey will be some freaky stuff, says Gamble. "It's a bit bonkers. We're bringing in archangels, and the Horsemen, and Lucifer, so we made the decision not to hold anything back. We're shooting a story about one of the Horsemen [now]. We had to ask ourselves 'What are they? Are they demons or angels? What do they do and how do they feel?' And then, if angels are dicks, then archangels are the super-dicks [this year]. They're very different from angels, and we're exploring that. The only representation of an archangel we've seen so far is this ominous rumble when Chuck was threatened. We will follow up on that in a very extreme way. You're going to meet the angel behind the rumble, and he's not a nice guy."

Edlund also hints that there'll be opportunities for some signature *Supernatural* style one-shot episodes that the fans have come to love. In particular he enthuses about an upcoming episode that's about being trapped in TV. "Many people have done that, but we steal very well, and this will be a good theft of that," Edlund explains. "It will break all the walls of television reality, then pass them through a bunch of genres, so that will be cool. I have seen that there are a lot of really ambitious story ideas coming out [of the room] because we're really cooking everything on the stove with the Apocalypse. If it's a ghost story, it's informed by the notion of what happens when you shake the ligature between Heaven and Hell called the ghost world. What's going on there?" he teases.

But perhaps the biggest question about this season is that as long as Kripke has been talking about the show, he's also been adamant about *Supernatural* following a concrete five-year plan that would dictate the story arc he always intended for the Winchester brothers. But now that season five is a reality and the show is getting fantastic critical reviews while retaining strong audience loyalty, there have been rumors that maybe another season is possible.

We asked Kripke what gives, and he admitted, "The honest answer is because I have low self-esteem I never dreamed that the show would go five years. I had a five-year plan and now I'm here and it's going well. I'm like the girl in the glasses in the teen comedy and everyone wants to go into a sixth season," he jokes. "I was a little bewildered by it. I think that is why earlier I was so adamant about five seasons, because I never thought we would go this distance. The reality is that I have a five-year plan and we are going to finish this story this year. We're not going to drag it out or try to stretch it to accommodate and then dilute it and weaken it. We're going to tell this story with a bang and it's going to end. But we are leaving the possibility for a new story to begin. This chapter may be over, but there is nothing saying a new story can't begin. We'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

Ben and Sera photo: Bill Edwards

WHERE HAVE I SEEN... MEG

Rachel Miner's the second actress to take on the role of vindictive demon Meg Masters. Miner has had an acting career that started way back when she was just nine years old and worked with Woody Allen. We look at some of her most memorable roles to date...

CALIFORNICATION (2007-2008)
On the comedy drama about troubled ladies' man writer Hank Moody (David Duchovny), Miner played Dani, the secretary of Moody's agent Charlie, a wild child who had some rather unusual interests that soon found their way into her working life.

NY-LON (2004)
In this British TV series about a transatlantic romance, Miner played Astrid, the New Yorker best friend of the female lead Edie (*The Office*'s Rashida Jones), who is trying to have a relationship with London-based Michael (*True Blood* star Stephen Moyer).

SEX AND THE CITY (1999)
For the season two finale, *Twenty-Something Girls Vs. Thirty-Something Women*, Miner played Laurel, the starry-eyed and virginal wannabe writer who idolized Carrie Bradshaw and hung upon her every word when Carrie and friends vacationed in the Hamptons and experienced a culture clash with the younger girls they encountered.

THE GUIDING LIGHT (1990-1995)
Miner spent five years in this long-running soap opera as one of five actresses to have played the character Michelle Bauer Santos, a character who survived everything from attempted suffocation with a pillow to her adoptive mother's death in a car crash. Miner picked up three Young Artist Awards and an Emmy nomination for the role.

NEWS BITES

Entertainment Weekly.com has named Jensen Ackles number two in its "Sci-Fi Hotties of 2009" list, while in the fan vote on the site, Jensen was way ahead of the competition at number one. Meanwhile, Jared Padalecki made number three in *Cosmopolitan.com*'s 'Fall TV Hottest Men' list, saying, "His character, Sam, has a dark and tortured side that's a total turn-on." We think Becky, the fangirl in *Sympathy for the Devil*, would agree with this one!

In *Rolling Stone* magazine's September issue, *Supernatural* has been listed as #27 in the column '50 Reasons to watch TV.' As the article puts it, "This show features the Bo and Luke Duke of demon hunters, battling evil in their '67 Impala. This season they take on Boss Hogg himself – Lucifer – in a bang-up Judgment Day Champagne jam." Sam and Dean as Bo and Luke? We hope that doesn't mean Castiel is Daisy!

We knew Castiel had made a big impact on *Supernatural*, and that was borne out in the website *TelevisionWithoutPity.com*'s annual Tubey Awards, voted for by readers. Castiel was voted 'Most Welcome New Character,' by readers of the website that's even been namechecked on the show itself. We wonder if Simpatico voted?

Cons Round Up

Supernatural conventions are spreading further and further afield, it seems. Italy will be getting its first convention in the shape of the *Jus In Bello* con, happening from April 2-4, 2010. Taking place at the Hilton Rome Airport Hotel, its guests will include Jared Padalecki (Sam Winchester), Misha Collins (Castiel), Jim Beaver (Bobby Singer), Jake Abel (Adam Milligan), Traci Dinwiddie (Pamela Barnes), Frederic Lehne (the Yellow-Eyed Demon), Samantha Smith (Mary Winchester), and Richard Speight, Jr. (Trickster). For more information, see http://jusinbello.it

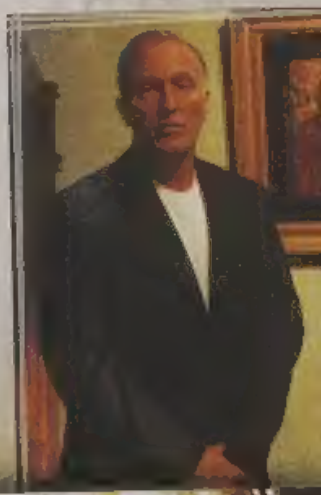
Meanwhile, the Rising Con will be Spain's first ever *Supernatural* con. From June 12-13, 2010, the convention will take over Barcelona's Barceló Sants Hotel, with the guests including Jared Padalecki, Samantha Ferris (Ellen Harvelle), and, for the first time at a European convention, the Impala! For more, visit www.kizevents.com

Another first is provided by the first ever German *Supernatural* Con from May 21-23 at the Parkhotel Bad Neuehahr. The *Asylum Europe: No Rest For the Wicked* convention will feature Jim Beaver, Samantha Ferris,

Hunted Down

Supernatural stars spotted...

Besides returning to *Supernatural* as Sam's late girlfriend Jessica, **Adrianne Palicki** will be seen soon in another apocalyptically-themed drama, the movie *Legion*, to be released in January 2010, as well as a remake of the 80s drama *Red Dawn*. • Another returnee to the show, **Samantha Ferris** (Ellen Harvelle), stars in the directorial debut of Dolph Lundgren, the action movie *Icarus*, released next year. • Ferris' on-screen daughter **Alona Tal** (Jo Harvelle) can be seen soon in the horror movie *Undocumented*, as well as the thriller *Kalamity* with Nick Stahl. • **Rob Benedict** (Chuck) has joined *The Group*, a film comedy co-written by *Heroes* star Greg Grunberg, as well as the comedy drama *A Little Help*. • **Katie Cassidy** (Ruby I), as well as starring in the updated 90s TV show *Melrose Place*, will also be in another reimagining, the *Nightmare on Elm Street* movie reboot. • **Steven Williams** (Rufus Turner) will star in the thriller *Gamers*, about a killer who re-enacts deaths in video games. • **Julie McNiven** (Anna, below) plays another Anna in the indie movie comedy *Falling Better Now*. • **Nicki Aycox** (the first Meg Masters) takes the title role in the drama *Christina*, while the second Meg, **Rachel Miner**, can be seen soon in the horror *House of Good and Evil*, and the action fantasy movie, *Cross*. • **Mark Rolston** (Alastair I, below right) is in much demand, with roles in the horror thriller *The Taxidermist*, the western *The Hard Ride*, and a reprisal of his role as Dan Erickson in *Saw VI* coming up, while **Christopher Heyerdahl** (Alastair II) will be seen this month as another kind of supernatural creature, the vampire Marcus in *The Twilight Saga: New Moon*. • Finally, **Jeffrey Dean Morgan** (John Winchester, above) is filming the action adventure *The Losers*, and will be playing the stalker of Hilary Swank in the thriller *The Resident*.



We'll Always Have PARIS...

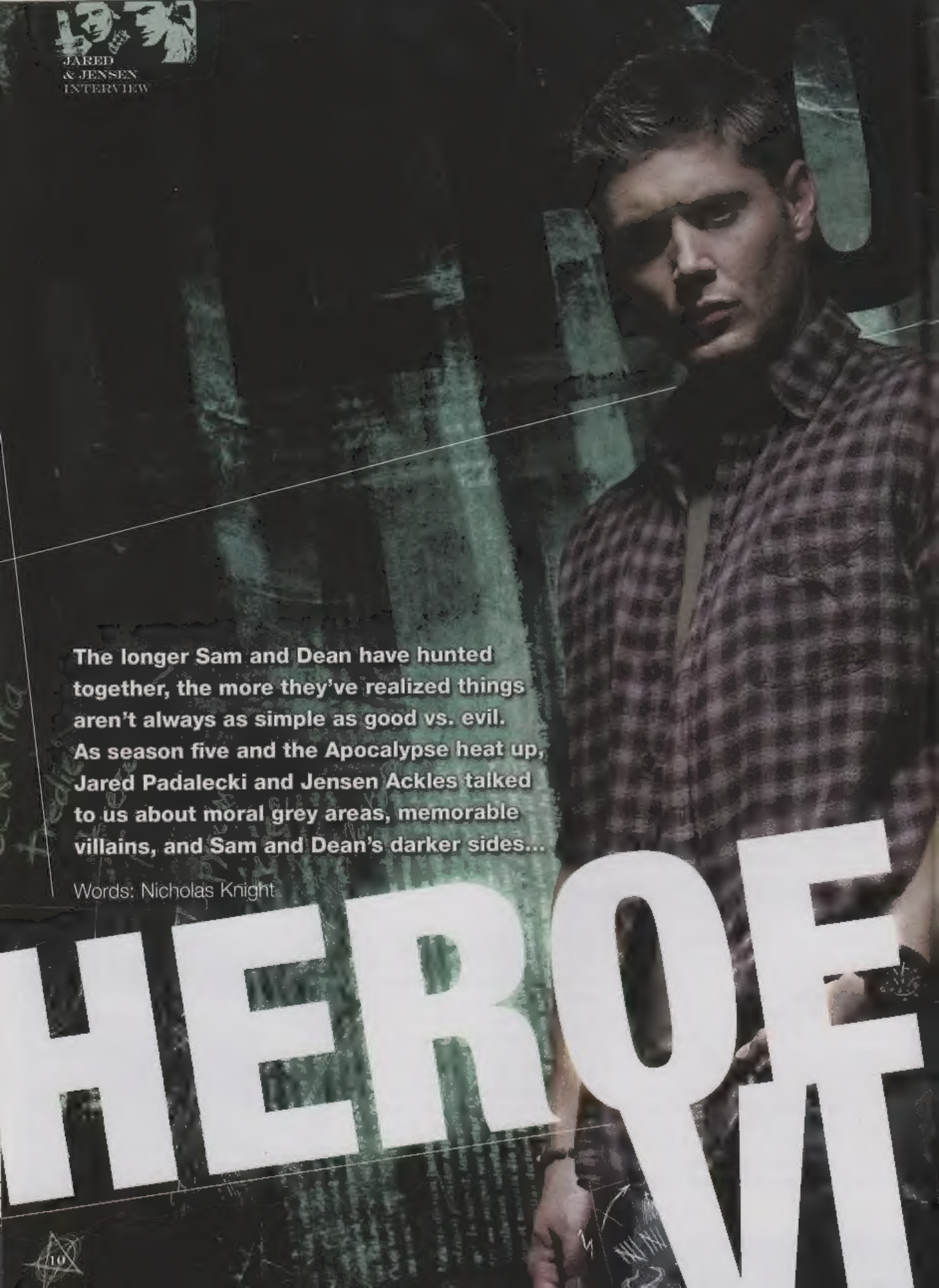
One of the biggest surprises of season five has to be the guest appearance by none other than Paris Hilton in episode five, *Fallen Idols*. It seems *Supernatural*'s production team were no less surprised. Show creator Eric Kripke told the *Chicago Tribune*'s Maureen Ryan that he was, "Quite frankly shocked that Paris agreed to do it," while writer and producer Sera Gamble added, "The fact that she wanted to do the episode speaks volumes about her sense of humor. She's flat-out awesome for playing along."

and Chad Lindberg (Ash) among others. For details, go to www.rogueevent.co.uk

Asylum's 2009 convention in Birmingham, England, sold out in no time, so we're sure its 2010 outing will be just as popular. Jim Beaver, Katherine Boecher (Lilith), and Kurt Fuller (Zachariah) have already been announced as guests. It all happens at the Hilton Metropole Hotel in Birmingham May 14-16, 2010. See www.rogueevent.co.uk

Closer to *Supernatural*'s studio home, Creation's 'Salute to *Supernatural*' Con will be happening in Vancouver, Canada from August 27-29, 2010 at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre. Jared Padalecki is the first of many guests to be announced for the line up. For more, keep an eye on www.creationent.com

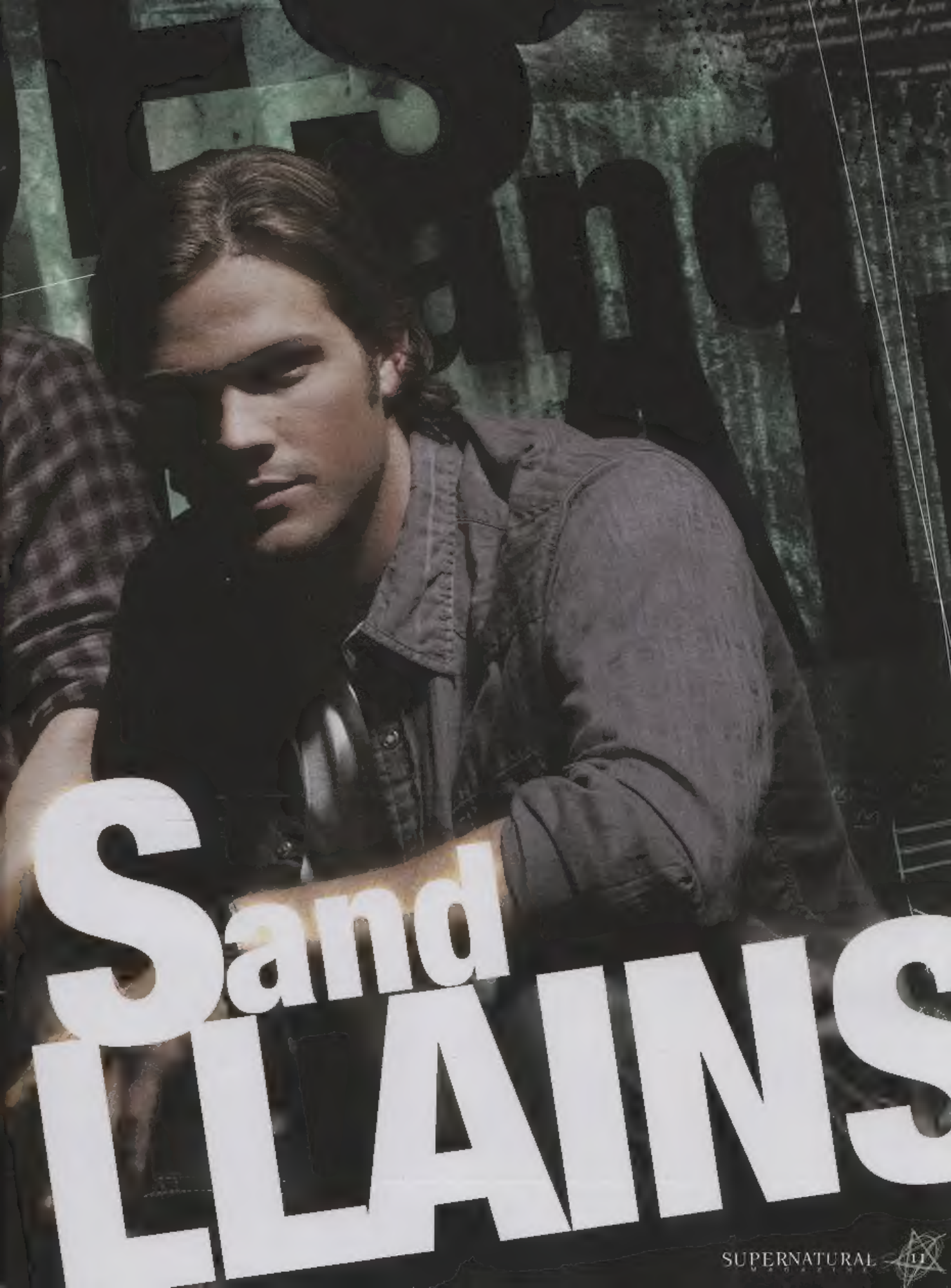
Creation will also be holding upcoming 'Salutes to *Supernatural*' Cons in Los Angeles (March 26-28, 2010), New Jersey (July 9-11, 2010), and Chicago (October 8-10, 2010). More details and tickets will be available soon. To find out more, check www.creationent.com



The longer Sam and Dean have hunted together, the more they've realized things aren't always as simple as good vs. evil. As season five and the Apocalypse heat up, Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles talked to us about moral grey areas, memorable villains, and Sam and Dean's darker sides...

Words: Nicholas Knight

HERO OF VIL



Sand LAINS

The Apocalypse is upon us and the Devil is walking the earth... and Jensen Ackles is not the least bit surprised by this turn of events. "It was inevitable the way everything was going," he declared. "Everything was headed in that direction and this show has always been about payoffs, which is something I like about the writing. They don't just string you along with a bunch of unanswered questions. The writers build up towards something and they give it to you. I think that they were aiming in that direction, so the storyline was inevitable. It's causing some different problems for the Winchester brothers, and we're going to deal with that."

"I'm a fan of the writing," Jared Padalecki concurred. "A lot has obviously changed in the storyline. We've seen Sam drinking blood, we've seen him kill Alistair and we've seen him do these really super-powerful things..." Like raising Lucifer.

Now that was something that surprised Ackles. "I think it always pointed toward Sam being involved in Lucifer's rising, but how?" was the question, he noted. "For it to come down to [such] heavy involvement as it was, that obviously was shocking." Yet, in retrospect, it makes perfect sense. "That was part of the payoff," continued Ackles. "You needed that heavy involvement to justify our position in the storyline. Otherwise we're just a couple of human beings mixed up in something that's way, way bigger than us. To directly involve us in it definitely validates our story."

Of course, all the blame can't be on Sam – Ruby turned out to be a bigger villain than anyone imagined, orchestrating Sam's breaking of the final seal. Ackles thought, "Ruby's true intentions could've gone both ways. I think just as Lucifer was a fallen angel, she could have been a fallen demon, and she could have fallen on the good side and really wanted to make right out of wrong. Obviously it was a nice twist. I think it worked out for the best."

The most shocking part of Ruby's betrayal of Sam was arguably not her true intentions for having him kill Lilith, but rather that she turned him into a demon blood junkie. "I guess demon blood is a drug, and Sam is an addict," Padalecki confirmed. "It's interesting and fun to play. Sam believes it's coming from wanting to make the world a better place; he really thinks he wants the blood to get rid of demons. I thought it was great for the storyline."

The big question is, will Sam fall off the wagon? Will he get hooked on demon blood again and turn into some kind of inhuman creature? "I don't know," said Ackles. "I think he could get as far as that. Whether he stays there or whether or not he even gets there, I don't know. But I think it's possible."

Or perhaps Sam would consume so much demon blood that it would turn him evil and he'll say 'yes' to becoming Lucifer's vessel. "I personally would love to see Sam go dark side," Padalecki admitted. "I've had a lot of fun playing good Sam for so long, but I had such a great time shooting *Born Under a Bad Sign* where I got possessed by Meg's demon. That was so much fun."

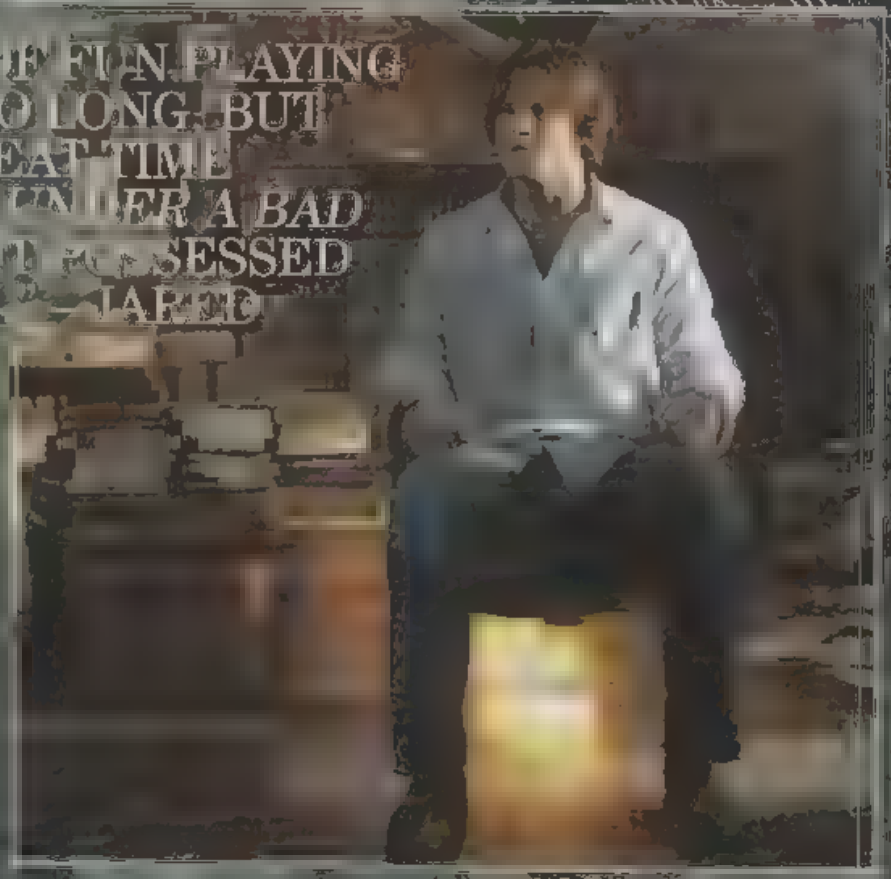
And Padalecki always has fun working with the original Meg – Nicki Aycox – who returned in episode 402, *Are You There God? It's Me, Dean Winchester*. "Nicki's awesome," he enthused. "She's a great actress, so it was nice to have her around. The show's so wacky that most people that we like end up getting killed off, but since it's *Supernatural*, it's never impossible for someone to come back and it's always nice when someone does. She looked great. It was too short a time, though."

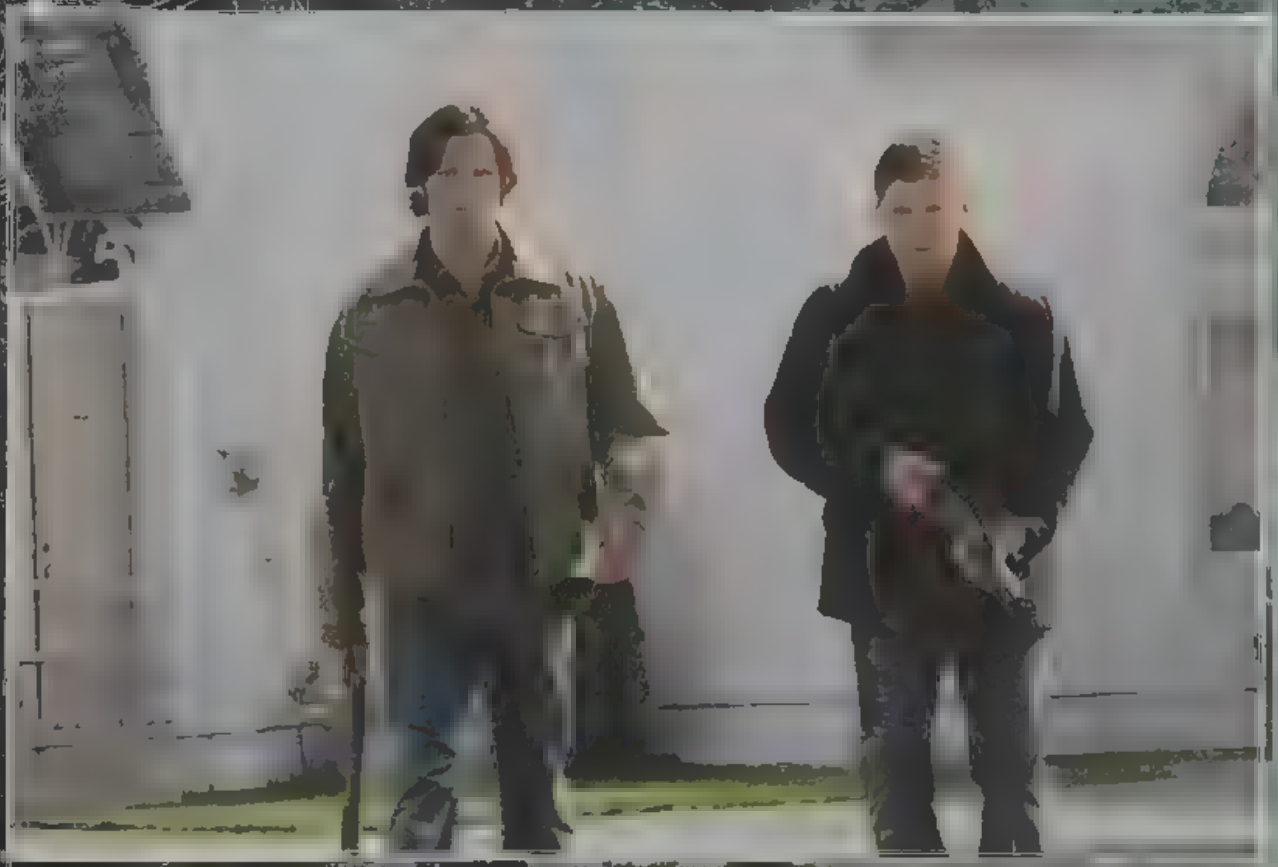
Aycox hasn't returned in season five yet – although given the work of *Supernatural*, we wouldn't rule it out – but the demon Meg returned with a vengeance in the season five premiere, *Sympathy For the Devil*, this time portrayed by Rachel Miner. "She's one of those characters that pops in and out," noted Ackles, who adjusted to Meg's new meat-suit in stride. "I think Meg's a character that the audience is familiar with, [she's someone] the writers can reuse, as opposed to introducing new demons and new angels. It's a common thread for the audience."

Of course, not that long ago, all angels were new angels. Some angels, like Uriel and Zachariah, were almost villainous substitutes for new demons. "I don't know if I'd call them villains," countered Ackles.

I'VE HAD A LOT OF FUN PLAYING DEAN SAM FOR SO LONG, BUT I HAD SUCH A GREAT TIME SHOOTING *BORN UNDER A BAD SIGN*, WHERE I GOT POSSESSED BY MEG'S DEMON. — JARED

"I think it's still black and white to them. I think the angels are just very steely about it. They're more like, 'Listen, this is the way it's gonna be. This is how it's gonna be.' Especially Uriel. He'd say, 'I don't have time to talk to you peons, this is how things are done and this is the way we're gonna do it, and that's it.' Sam and Dean would think, 'How can you be so sure? There's a grey area here – are you people not seeing this?' I think that confidence and that black and white mentality they have is something that Dean and Sam are not used to. Now that the angels have become a large part of this and all of this is coming to a head,





I think they're starting to see the grey areas as well."

Castiel has definitely seen some of the grey areas, and his relationship with Dean has grown at the same time. Nonetheless, Dean is always going to be Dean. "I think he's going to react to the villainous actions of angels the way he reacts to anything," stated Ackles. "He's going to have his hardnosed brash sense of humor. He takes everything with a pinch of salt. Dean hates the demons, he hates the angels. He's just a bitter young guy. I think that's just part of his persona. He doesn't trust anything but family. And I think rightfully so, because even though the angels might be good, they might use you to do bad in order to do good for the big picture. He's more kind of the 'live in the now' type. 'No, I'm not going to go kill this person because you say it's going to save a town. Let's save the person and save the town.' He has that humanistic outlook on things. That's just the way he deals with it. Sam is probably more apt to step back and look at the whole picture and understand why he has to do what he has to do and blah blah blah, whereas Dean is more, 'We can save everybody and we can kill the bad guys and we can get the girl. That's how we're gonna do it.'"

Padalecki had similar thoughts. "Dean has always been like, 'If you're a demon, you're bad, if you're a monster, you're bad, and if you're trying to kill my brother you're bad.' He's like, 'I gotta kill Ruby, I gotta kill this vampire, I gotta kill Gordon...' Then Sam is the voice of reason, the voice that says, 'Hey, wait a second, my subconscious is saying to give it some thought.' So it's a nice way to play out some of the problems in today's society. I think the show tries to open people's eyes to different possibilities."

DEAN HATES THE DEMONS, HE HATES THE ANGELS, HE'S JUST A BITTER YOUNG GUY – JENSEN

Not that "the voice of reason" stopped Sam from drinking demon blood and stumbling toward the dark side. On the other hand, Dean has remained firmly on the light side, despite the whole torturing souls in Hell thing, and Ackles doesn't expect to see his character succumb to darkness anytime soon. "I think you'll see a lot of layers to Dean because we're heading in a big, big direction," he said. "But we're still giving you some of the old throwback *Supernatural* episodes, so you're still going to get that good old-fashioned season one to season three Dean. At the same time the brothers are going to be dealing with stuff they've never dealt with on a level they've never dealt with before, so you're liable to see all kinds of new emotions emerge from the brothers.

"I think you're gonna find that when Sam and Dean are separated, they're dealing more with stuff that they don't necessarily want to share with each other, but when they're together, they fall back into their normal routine. I don't think

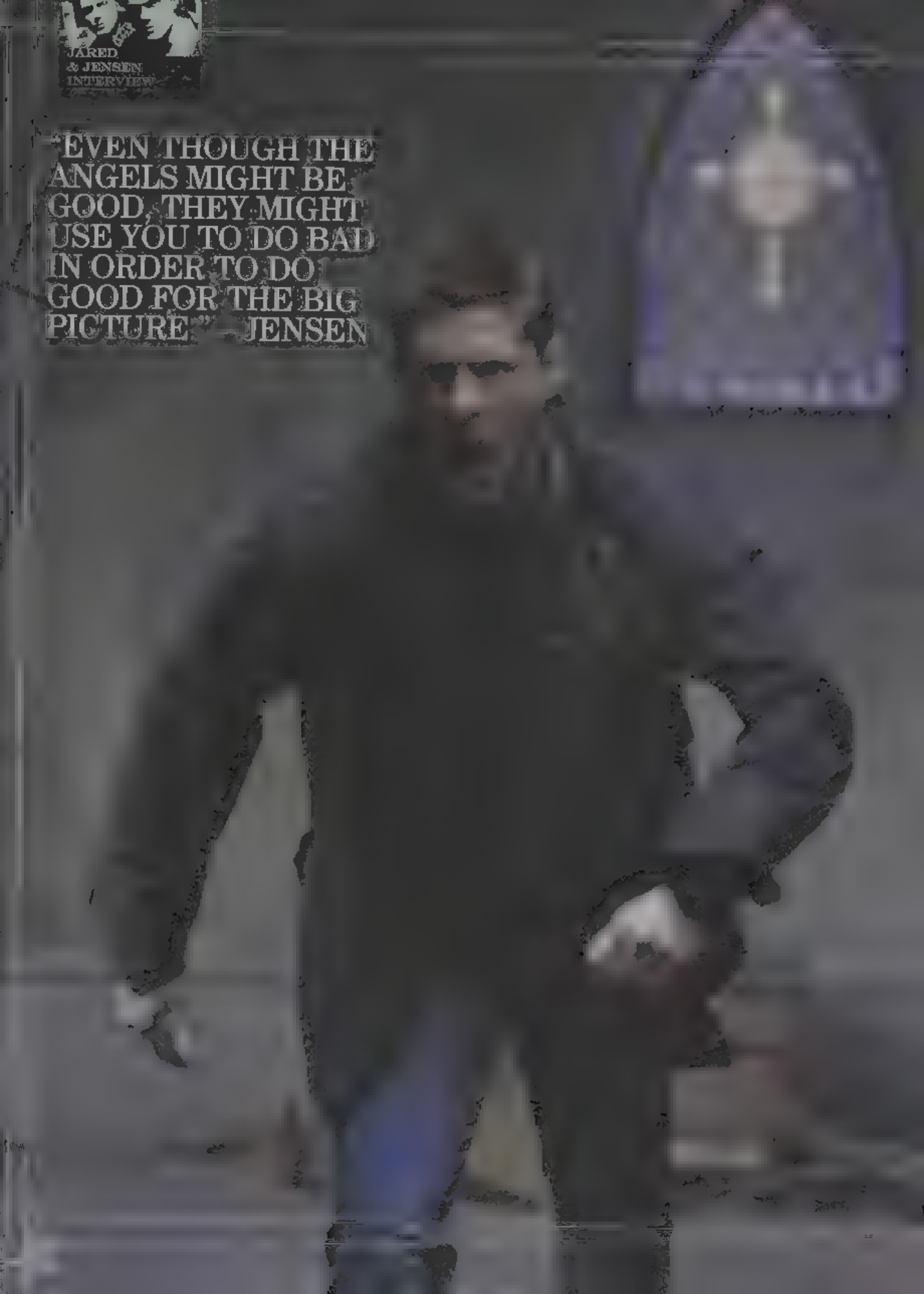
that is going to completely go away, but I don't think Dean is going to hold the whole 'I told you so' about Ruby over Sam's head, either. I think Dean really wants to get past it, really wants a fresh start. You'll see that more in the coming episodes. I think the brothers need each other, and now that the Apocalypse is really happening, they're going to need each other even more. I think they both realize that and they really truly want a fresh start. They want to take this thing head-on together."

And what they want to avoid most is going head-to-head in this monumental battle, which is what would happen if they allowed themselves to be vessels for Michael and Lucifer. "I kinda figured [Eric] Kripke would make it that way," Ackles remarked about the opposing vessel destinies of the brothers. "You have to make the story with these two guys as important as possible, otherwise we just become a couple of pawns. If there's not that heavy burden or importance put on the shoulders of these two characters, then the story really kind of becomes about something else.

"Ever since Dean was yanked out of Hell, he's become directly tied to the mythology of the show and he now has much more of a purpose within the storylines. I think that obviously he's not one to embrace a chosen path, so to speak. He's not going to embrace the whole destiny thing. He's much more of a free spirit, acting of his own free will, and he wants to do things the way he sees fit – a 'Dean's way or the highway' kind of thing. So to have somebody come in and say, 'No, this is what you're gonna do and this is why you're gonna do it, because you were chosen to do it,' he's like, 'Whoa, whoa, what?' Instead he's trying to harness that knowledge and figure out how he's going to deal with [what the angels want] and look after Sam. And I think Dean feels like he's getting quartered; he's getting pulled in all different directions. It's been a lot more trying as a character. He can't just go back to his old antics and get mad and hit things and walk away. He has to own up and face a lot of things that he doesn't want to."

The thing he wants to talk about the least is how Sam killing Lilith is what set Lucifer free, whereas that's a topic that

"EVEN THOUGH THE ANGELS MIGHT BE GOOD, THEY MIGHT USE YOU TO DO BAD IN ORDER TO DO GOOD FOR THE BIG PICTURE" – JENSEN



Dean's off-screen persona finds fascinating. "I think that Lilith just being a pawn in Lucifer's game is eye-opening as far as what the big picture really is. To have the story seem to be centered around these characters like Lilith and the Yellow-Eyed Demon, only to realize how small their roles really are in the whole thing, I think it goes to show you how big it really is. It's given the show much more of an epic [context], as opposed to just two brothers cruising around chasing ghosts."

So what does the whole big picture encompass? What exactly is the Devil's endgame? Padalecki and Ackles don't know yet, or if they do, they're hiding it better than Sam hid his powers from Dean. What Ackles *will* discuss is how the Devil fits into the *Supernatural* mythos. "I think the writers have done a lot of homework, and they've really tried to create an interesting version of the Devil," he said. He thinks Lucifer is the Devil we'd expect – evil incarnate – not simply some nice angel who's been misunderstood.

"I think that in order for the story to really work, there has to be that struggle between right and wrong, that ultimately there has to be a good and an evil. It doesn't really work if there's a good and a good. I'm thinking you gotta have that, even if Lucifer thinks he's right, no matter how wrong he is. They could paint him right, just like Ruby, who everybody thought was in the right. Everybody thought she was trying to do good and it ended up that she was more evil than any of them. I think you've gotta have that struggle in order for the good side of the story to work as well."

"I THINK THE ONLY WAY FOR SAM TO PROPERLY DIE WOULD BE FOR HIS BROTHER TO KILL HIM" – JARED

And for the good side to work out as well as possible, Lucifer has to die in the end, in a big climactic season finale battle. So the big question is, who will kill Lucifer? "I don't know," Ackles chuckled. "It could be anybody. It could be the angels, it could be Michael, and Sam and Dean could just be bystanders. At the same time, it could end up being that Sam is the vessel for Lucifer and Dean is the vessel for Michael, and even though they are earthly brothers, they are embodied by two super beings and would go at it against each other. Those are all options."

Padalecki expects the last option, at least, that is, if Sam is not slated to survive the Apocalypse. "I think the only way for Sam to properly die would be for his brother to kill him," he mused.

But surely God must be an option. Surely He could smite Lucifer? Maybe, maybe not. Ackles isn't convinced God will even make a physical appearance on the show. "I don't think so," he contended. "I don't think that it's a necessity for the story to have that kind of contact. He's the all-knowing, all-seeing omniscient character in the storyline, so He's got people to do His things for Him. At the end of the day, Lucifer was somebody who was an underling to God, so God is above the whole thing anyway. He has His armies coming to fight the armies of darkness and that's how it is. Whether or not we'll ever see from Him or hear from Him, I don't know, but I think it's always going to be messengers of God. Then again, Eric could throw a curve ball and all of a sudden we're talking to a burning bush..." It seems Ackles has mostly given up on predicting where the show is heading. "I don't try to predict what Eric's going to do anymore, because nine times out of 10 I'm wrong!" Like the rest of us, it seems Ackles and Padalecki are looking forward to the surprises as they come.

LILIT INCARNATE

She was the first demon, and also the last of the 66 Seals that were broken to raise Lucifer from the pit. As Sam and Dean face up to the Apocalypse, *The Official Supernatural Magazine* got to talk to Lilith herself, actress KATHERINE BOECHER...

The Official Supernatural Magazine had the pleasure of being on set to witness Katherine Boecher filming her character Lilith's death scene for *Lucifer Rising*. In between takes we ate pakoras off a trolley that the caterer had wheeled up to the area known as video village (where the director, other crew members – and the occasional wide-eyed journalist – sit behind a row of monitors to watch the camera feeds). After the episode wrapped, we caught up with Boecher again by telephone.

***The Official Supernatural Magazine:* We'll never forget the time we got to eat pakoras with Lilith! Do you normally like spicy food?**

Katherine Boecher: I do. I'm from Texas! Yeah, another Texan on the *Supernatural* set! Tex-Mex food and spiciness is an obsession of mine.

What was it like working with those two Texan boys, Jensen Ackles and Jared Padalecki?

There's something about being from Texas where when you see other people from Texas there's kind of an automatic bond that happens, and it's just like "Oh you're from there too? Okay, you're cool." So, yeah, it was really great to see some other Texans on set. Jared and Jensen are both so down-to-earth, it was really nice to work with them.

Along with being down-to-earth, the boys are well-known for being pranksters, so did you fall victim to any practical jokes?

I was not part of any pranks – that I know of. But it was hilarious working with them. There was a lot of laughter the whole time that I was on set.

Had you watched *Supernatural* prior to being on it?

I had, yes. It's funny, because I grew up on horror movies. I have an older brother and he kind of forced me to watch horror

TE

movies when I was a kid, so I've always watched stuff like that. Now that I'm older, I like "B" horror movies a lot and I like hokey horror movies that I can still turn off the lights and go to sleep at night after I watch them. *Supernatural* though, is really scary, so the first time I watched it I was like, "Oh my—" I was really freaked out. Now that I've gotten really into it and all the characters, I can actually sleep with the lights off again!

You obviously enjoy watching horror, but you've also had parts in several genre titles, going back to one of your earliest roles in *Scream at the Sound of the Beep*. Do you seek out these kinds of acting jobs, or is it just a coincidence that your career's gone this way?

It's definitely something I have fun doing, but in terms of directing my career to only go this route, I certainly want to do as many diverse roles as I possibly can, and I want to experience as many different characters as I can, so I'm not necessarily trying to only do this. But it's so neat to do stuff where there are supernatural things going on.

Except for a brief stint in demon Ruby's body, as portrayed by Katie Cassidy, Lilith had always inhabited the bodies of little girls before. Did you try to maintain some of that childlike quality?

I did, and I was glad that I had the chance to develop that more, and to bring out more sides of Lilith. You can't do it all in one scene, so it was awesome to be called back for another episode because I got the chance to actually bring out all the different parts of Lilith.

Up until now, the demon Lilith has never been in the same body twice (not counting Dean's hallucination in *Yellow Fever*, which was the same Lilith from *No Rest for the Wicked*). When you were hired for *The Monster at the End of This Book* did you know you'd be coming back for the season finale?

Jared was actually joking with me [on the set of *The Monster at the End of This Book*] that they never really bring Lilith's girls back, other than Ruby, so I was pretty sure that that was it, that it was like, "Hi Canada, bye Canada, I'm done." So it was really surprising when I got the call, and I was very excited to come back.

When it looked like it could potentially be a recurring role, were you upset that they killed your character off?

You know, I gotta say, there's a little part of an actor that's all, "Aww, man, I'm dying." But the story was so good that it really didn't leave any choice – she *had* to go – so I think it was definitely worth it. It was fun to play getting offed as a demon. A *lot* of fun!

Your death played a very important part in the climatic twist of the season – when Lilith died, the final seal was broken, freeing Lucifer from the pit. Since you're really into the show, what do you think is going to happen now that Lucifer is actually rising, bringing Hell on Earth?

I think it's crazy. I think it's absolutely crazy! I haven't a clue what they're going to do now that he's actually risen. I'm hooked, and I want to see the next season because how are the brothers going to battle him? It's going to be really cool to see how Eric fashions this one.

You worked with two different *Supernatural* directors – Mike Rohl and Eric Kripke. How did their directing styles differ?

They're different in their directing styles, definitely, but both of them are

"IT WAS AWESOME BEING CALLED BACK ANOTHER EPISODE BECAUSE I GOT THE CHANCE TO ACTUALLY BRING OUT ALL THE PARTS OF LILITH."

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wonderful. Mike would let me do my own thing and then he'd give me a little pointer here or there or come and talk to me a little bit. He really allowed me to do what ever I wanted with the role, which was really cool.

With Kripke being the show's creator, did you find that he had a very specific idea in mind for every scene?
He did, yes. He was extremely specific about exactly what he wanted for each scene. It was interesting having my own ideas of what I wanted to bring to this episode and then coming and having the creator, the person who knows everything about the show, explain what to go with. It was amazing. Eric was incredibly down-to-earth. He laughed a lot, and he was always telling me stories about how he got into the business, about horror movies, and quotes from old horror movie icons, and about making this kind of genre and what it's like. I really learned a lot from him. I felt like I was in college!

Do you have a favorite line from your episodes?
I really enjoyed saying Ruby's line off the set. She had that line, "You have to admit I'm awesome," and I just could not stop saying it, over and over. It was so funny. But all my lines were fabulous. [works Hart]

When you were filming your death scene and you were rolling off that step, was it difficult to make your movements look lifeless? Did you ever bang your head too hard?
No, I didn't go home with a concussion, thank God! It takes a lot of focus to do nothing. It's like, "Don't let your eyes move at all. Keep your pupils in the center of your eyes." It takes *a lot* of focus.

What was it like lying in a pool of fake blood all day?
It was a *long* day!

Do you have any behind-the-scenes stories to share with the fans?
It was really fun hanging on set with Genevieve Cortese. We talked a little bit about everything. She's had a lot of experience playing a demon. She said it's been a really great learning experience for her doing *Supernatural*. We talked lots about the end of our two characters and being offed. She brought her dog to set, a little brown and white dog. I can't remember the name of it, but it's really cute. They all bring their dogs to set, so there's a gang of dogs roaming around keeping everyone happy in the wee hours of the morning.

In your credits, you often use the screen name Pippi. How'd that come about? And why do you switch back and forth between Katherine and Pippi?
I used to look like Pippi Longstocking when I was a little girl, so it was my nickname from way back in the day, and I kind of stuck with it until about eight years ago. Everybody called me Pippi, and people referred to it as a good name. And it's because people are so used to calling me Pippi that they still credit me that way. It's hard to change. I've been going by my given name, Katherine, for eight years already now, and I walk into a casting room and they're still like, "Hey Pippi, how ya doing?"

Are there any upcoming projects you're in that you'd like the *Supernatural* fans to check out?
I did a film with Jackie Chan that's coming out January 2010 where I got to play a Russian spy, so it was a very different kind of role from Lilith. It's a comedy and it's really funny, so keep a lookout for that. It's called *The Spy Next Door*.

That sounds awesome! Did you get to fight Jackie Chan?
I did, actually. I did a fight scene with Jackie Chan. It was intimidating, but really cool.

Have you received much fan feedback for your portrayal of Lilith?
I talked to my brother about it after I filmed the first episode, because he is way into *Supernatural* and the horror genre, and he was like, "I don't know. You might be disappointed. These fans are really intense and they might not like you." I was so scared for days! But it seems to me that so far it's okay.

In closing, is there anything else you'd like to share about your experience working on two episodes of *Supernatural*?
The fans are so wonderful, and everyone involved with the whole show is such a family, so I just want to say thank you to them for letting me be a part of this experience and this family.

TOP TEN VILLAINS

The Winchesters have faced all manner of evil creatures in their time, but who were the worst of the worst? *The Official Supernatural Magazine* teamed up with website Totalscifionline.com to put it to the vote and find fans' top ten villains for our Villains Special. By the pricking of our thumbs, something wicked this way comes...

4. URIEL

Classification: Angel

An intimidating, glowering figure who apparently had little liking for humanity, on first meeting the Winchesters Uriel seemed to be a pragmatic, uncompromising force but one that was still generally on the side of good. His attitude toward humanity, however, referring to them as "mud monkeys" was perhaps a clue to his true intentions. Like Lucifer before him, Uriel's disdain for man led him to rebel, killing any angels who refused to join him, and freeing Alastair so that he could kill Dean.

MOST NEFARIOUS ACT:
Surely there can't be any worse crime for an angel to commit than killing your own kind? Uriel did just that, and almost killed Dean and Castiel too before fallen angel Anna offed him. Killed by an angel – it's not difficult to feel like Uriel had that coming.

YOU SAID:
"Uriel was one mean son of a gun. To be killing his own kind the way he did was just so evil!" – Randi Evans

"My vote for best villain is Uriel the renegade angel. He caught me completely by surprise when it was revealed that he released Alastair from the Devil's Trap and killed his fellow angels." – Toby Beamish

3. BLOODY MARY

Class

Never say 'Bloody Mary' three times in front of a mirror or you won't live to regret it. Mary Worthington was a murdered girl who haunted mirrors, killing people who felt any guilt about unsolved deaths they'd played a part in. That nearly included Sam, who bled through the eyes before Dean showed Mary her own reflection and destroyed her mirror. Bad luck for her. Although she appeared way back in season one, it seems you have long memories for villainy, though perhaps Bloody Mary was more of a vengeful victim than a true villain.

MOST NEFARIOUS ACT: Liquefying people's eyeballs so they bleed to death through the eyes springs to mind. The fact that the people in question do so because they feel responsible for someone's death doesn't make it much better.

YOU SAID:
"The villain that scared the crap out of me and forced me to cover up anything with a reflection in my room at night was Bloody Mary! That girl was scaaaary." – Becca Bojarzin

BELA

Character: Human

A thief and con artist who apparently didn't care who she screwed over to get what she wanted, Bela had more to her than met the eye. Thanks to her abusive childhood, Bela had made a demonic deal to rid herself of her parents when she was just a teenager, but, of course, there was a price to pay. Though more of an opportunist than an out-and-out villain, Bela crossed the line when she turned on the Winchesters to save herself from Lilith. If only she'd asked Sam and Dean for help instead.

MOST NEFARIOUS ACT:
Killing her parents with a demonic deal wasn't the nicest (even if they did kind of deserve it), but we think selling out Sam and Dean to Lilith and her Hellhounds was worse. Since the Hellhounds came howling for her when midnight struck, however, it looked like Bela would be getting her just deserts.

YOU SAID: "Worst villain for me was Bela. What a turncoat little bitch, turning Sam and Dean in just to save her own skin. She got what she deserved!" – Louise Norris

"Bela was the worst for me, because she was just self-centred and only cared about money. At least the other villains had bigger goals in mind." – Steve Docherty

ZACHARIAH

Although technically on the side of the angels, Zachariah isn't exactly the most benevolent of divine beings. Fully prepared to see a good portion of the Earth's population wiped out in a "planetary enema," Zachariah wanted the Apocalypse to happen just as much as the demons did, albeit for different reasons. Unlike many on this list, Zachariah probably wouldn't see himself as a villain, but that doesn't make him any less dangerous or ruthless.

MOST NEFARIOUS ACT:
By preventing Dean from stopping Sam's killing of Lilith and raising Lucifer, Zachariah showed himself as a master manipulator, surely his most dangerous quality. Zachariah's vengeance on rebellious angel Castiel was none too pretty either, as Chuck would testify.

YOU SAID:
"I think I have to go with Zachariah. He doesn't frighten me as viscerally as Lilith and Alastair, but he's as good at hiding his true intentions as Ruby, and also, in his own jaded way, as much of a fanatic. Zachariah has his own agenda and doesn't care how many humans get killed in the process of bringing about paradise. An angel who apparently feels no shame about lying to and manipulating his underlings to make sure things go how he thinks they should (and never mind God or humanity) is, to me, as scary as any demon." – Morgan Dambergs

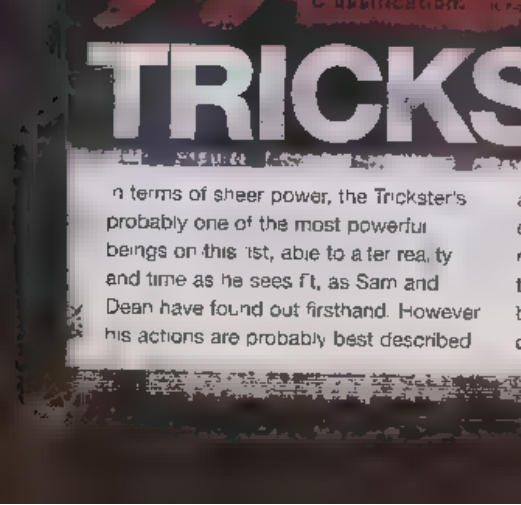
MEG MASTERS

With a cutting wit that was nearly as deadly as her thirst for killing, Meg Masters proved to be quite a handful for the Winchester brothers until they managed to exorcise her with the help of Bobby. But you can't keep a good (or bad) demon down. Not only did she spend some time inhabiting the body of Sam Winchester and seriously messing with the minds of Dean and Jo, but she also turned up in season five in a brand new meat-suit ready to raise Hell once again.

MOST NEFARIOUS ACT:
Ruthlessly killing everyone from drivers who picked her up hitchhiking to hunters to innocent civilians who shared a hometown with Sam and Dean, probably the most nefarious thing about Meg was her gleeful indiscriminate killing.

YOU SAID:
"She was so bad you had to like her" – Maria Lucas

"The best villain in *Supernatural* has to be the demon Meg. She kicked butt and didn't care about the master plan. She taught the brothers a thing or two about revenge and fury, while being admired by the fans for her sheer awesomeness. Meg is the best!" – Jackie Eastridge



TRICKSTER

In terms of sheer power, the Trickster's probably one of the most powerful beings on this list, able to alter reality and time as he sees fit, as Sam and Dean have found out firsthand. However his actions are probably best described as mischievous or malicious rather than downright evil, though the Trickster is no less dangerous for that. Very difficult to kill or to capture, the Trickster could be a formidable foe, if he wasn't so concerned about having fun!

MOST NEFARIOUS ACT:
Putting Sam through the trauma he did in *Mystery Spot* – making Sam live through Dean's death hundreds of times – would probably qualify as the worst thing the Trickster has done, even if he claimed he was doing it to help Sam adjust to the fact that he'd be losing Dean when Dean's deal with the Crossroads Demon expired.

YOU SAID:

"The Trickster – he was the only villain that couldn't be caught." – Aeria Washington

"My vote has to go to the Trickster. That sneaky little S.O.B. was fun and terrible all at once!" – Elizabeth Austin

LILITH

Classification: Demon

It seems appropriate that the first demon created by Lucifer, Lilith, should be one of the worst. We had some build up to Lilith's first appearance, with Ruby and Tamm warning of her power rising, so it was surprising that when we first saw her she'd taken the guise of an innocent looking little girl. The little girl was far from "sugar and spice, and everything nice," as Lilith proceeded to cause carnage. her choice of innocent bodies to inhabit making her even more evil. Her use of an adult woman's body allowed her to try and seduce Sam into a deal before she let herself be sacrificed as the final seal to free Lucifer. You could never say Lilith wasn't committed to the cause.

MOST NEFARIOUS ACT:

Take your pick! There was the matter of torturing Agent Henriksen, virgina Nancy Fitzgerald, and the other inhabitants of the Monument, Colorado sheriff's office to death one by one. Or there was her idea of R&R, which involved terrorizing the Fremont family when she took over the body of their little girl. Probably the nastiest thing about Lilith, however was her eating habits - relying on her demon "chef" (in the guise of a nurse) to bring her a supply of babies.

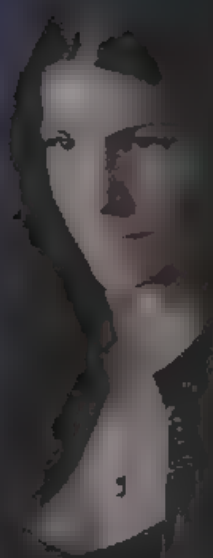
YOU SAID:

"Lilith - I almost chose Ruby because she conned the boys for so long, but then I remembered the young girls Lilith prefers to possess, the babies she eats, her personal chef possessing nurses to find those babies, and the 'vacation' where she holds a family hostage for her own sick pleasure. LILITH." - Lance Rainey

"I would have to say that at this point the best villain was the combination of Lilith and her Hellhounds in the season three finale. Just watching Dean Winchester being torn to bits by Lilith's Hellhounds literally gave me shivers!" - Chris Hall

"Lilith. Children can be so scary, believe me, I have two." - Abby D

RUBY



MOST NEFARIOUS ACT:
We'd have to say playing Sam like a violin and tricking him into raising Lucifer from Hell by getting Sam to willingly do what the Yellow-Eyed Demon had made him do as a baby – drinking demon blood so he could embrace his demonic powers. What's more, she made Sam think all the time that he was doing the right thing. Like she said, we have to admit it, but she was awesome.

YOU SAID:
"Ruby gets my vote. There's nothing more frightening than the unknown. When you trust someone with your life and your path, you in return give up a bit of your own free will and hand over the wheel. Ruby took that away from Sam. She was manipulative, double-crossing, but most importantly, she played her part well. At least Alastair, Azazel, and Lilith were upfront about their dark sides and their intentions. Ruby played the part of a demon with humanity, only to end up being a demon in all intents and purposes." – Mary White

"It's hard to choose, but I go with Ruby – she's been the most sinister, and Sam never saw it coming!" – Stacey X

"My vote for best villain is Ruby. Since she first appeared she has presented herself as a friend, created a rift between Sam and Dean, and ultimately led Sam toward his dark destiny. Ruby has possibly permanently damaged the relationship between the brothers, not to mention the fact that Sam's soul may be stained by the demon blood he has ingested. Last but not least, she manipulated events that led Sam to release Lucifer from his prison. Even in death, the consequence of Ruby's actions will linger." – Jorge Juarez

When Ruby revealed she was a demon in *The Kids Are Alright* – and one who said she could actually help Sam save Dean – she seemed like something the Winchesters had never met before, a benevolent demon. As it turned out, however, this sheep in wolf's clothing turned out to be a wolf through and through, who ruthlessly used Sam to bring about Lucifer's rise. There seemed to be nothing Ruby wouldn't do to achieve her goal – from seducing Sam to letting herself be tortured by Alastair to killing her fellow demons so as not to break her cover. Dean was never truly taken in by her, however, and it was at his hands that she died, using her own demon-killing knife. Talk about poetic justice.

AZAZEL

The very first villain we ever saw on *Supernatural*, standing over Sam's cradle, Azazel, the Yellow-Eyed Demon's influence has been felt long after Dean shot him with the Colt to avenge their mother's death. So it is that when the time came for Lucifer to rise, it was revealed that it was actually Azazel who set the plan in motion decades beforehand. The fact that he has also possessed Sam and Dean's father and grandfather, violating the sanctity of the family, makes the Yellow-Eyed Demon even more menacing.

Classificat

He's obviously full of some [illegible] tormented and evil souls, so for someone to be its grand inquisitor you just know they're going to be one scary guy. Whatever body he's inhabited, Alastair proved himself to be one of the nastiest characters Sam and Dean have fought against. A master at inflicting pain (and at coping with it, judging by his resistance to being tortured by Dean), Alastair always had a wisecrack ready, no matter what the circumstances. No wonder you voted him your favorite *Supernatural* villain!

MOST NEFARIOUS ACT: Turning Dean into his apprentice in torture (after several decades' worth of torturing Dean in Hell) has to rank pretty highly. Turning Dean into one [illegible] hated and feared the most [illegible]

MOST NEFARIOUS ACT: Everything the Yellow-Eyed Demon did was pretty darn nefarious. What's more, he knew how to play the long game. Getting Mary to make a deal with him as a youngster so he could prepare Sam with his demon blood, then getting Jake Talley to open the Devil's Gate so Lilith could be freed and become the final seal, Azazel really did think of everything. He wasn't averse to the odd bloody massacre either. What's black and white and red all over? Thanks to Azazel, we found out...

YOU SAID:

"The demon that started it all, of course. Azazel is the best villain."
– Brianna Hobineen

"The best villain (or the worst, if we count his actions) would be the Yellow-Eyed Demon. He started it all, making the deal with Mary and choosing Sam to be the leader of his army. And he didn't even think twice about the methods he used for his ultimate goal – getting Lucifer to rise! Just think about the bloodbath at the convent. Wicked!" – Gerardo Morales

"The Yellow-Eyed Demon has my vote for the best villain in Supernatural. Ruby was manipulative, Lilith was evil, and Alastair is even worse, but the Yellow-Eyed Demon paved the way for all of their roles." – Roy J.

1 ALASTAIR

"Alastair is to be Alastair's most evil act, especially as it also meant the first Seal was broken on the way to raising Lucifer."

YOU SAID:

"Ruby was just a beneficiary of the damn Apocalypse rolling."
– Chris Archibald

"There's no hesitation when I vote Alastair. Ever since Ruby started freaking out in the church when they found Anna about how evil the guy was, I was on edge. This guy creeped me out more than any other character on the show, and just the characterization of Alastair is an absolute genius. He's merciless, has an eerie voice, and worst of all: he's creative. When Dean walked into the Devil's Trap to torture him and Alastair started singing, that was it for me. He was so amazingly cast and characterized that I was almost sad to see him go." – Kat Townsend

"This guy is just all kinds of creepy and really one of the few original villains to come around in the last decade on TV screens. Everything from his voice to his general demeanor is just classic villain. He was one of those guys that as soon as you saw him, you knew he'd be trouble for the main characters."
– Ryan Gephart

JOHN'S JOURNAL

Words: Jayne Nelson

NO REST FOR THE WICKED

Guest starring Jim Beaver (Bobby Singer), Katie Cassidy (Ruby), George Coe (Pat Fremont), Sierra McCormick (Lilith), Jonathan Potts (Mr. Fremont), Anna Galvin (Mrs. Fremont)

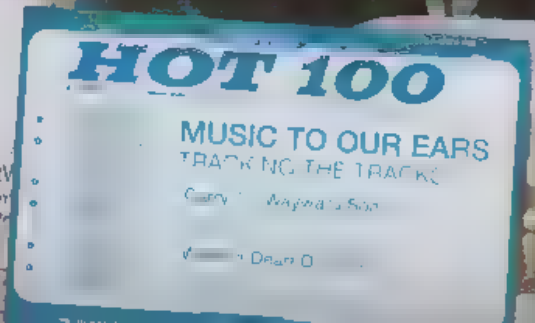
Episode 3.16
Written by Eric Kripke
Directed by Kim Manners

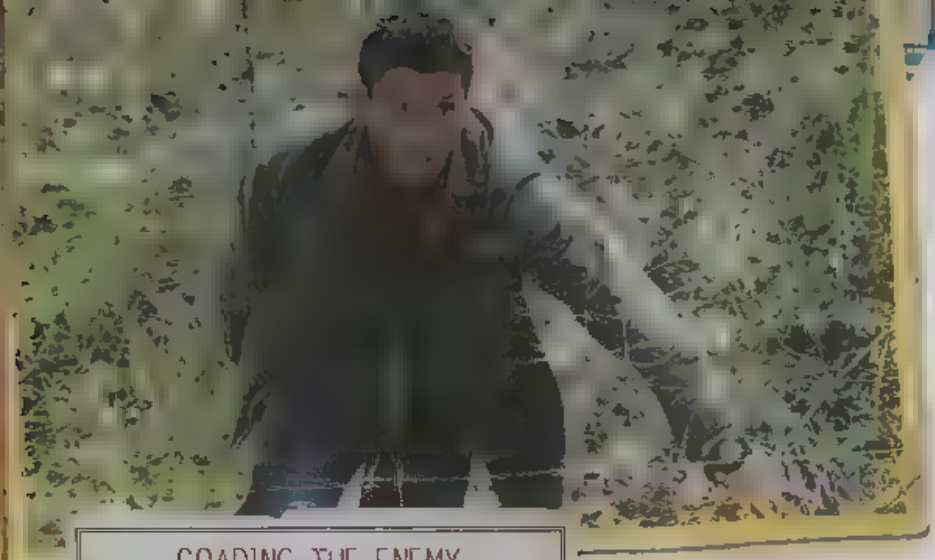
Dean runs through a forest with a Hellhound on his tail. The chase becomes increasingly desperate for Dean, and he falls over, staring up in panic as the beast pounces and begins to tear him apart. Dean wakes up, relieved that it's just a nightmare, but it's a short-lived relief. There are only 30 hours left until his demon deal is due, and so the nightmare was actually a premonition of what will happen if he can't break it.

There's still hope, however. Sam informs Dean that Bobby may have come up with a way to track Lilith, who, as they recently discovered from Beta, is the demon holding Dean's deal. For a moment everything seems okay, but as Dean looks at his brother he sees a hideous demon instead. The hallucinations have started, showing Dean is far too close to Hell for comfort.

The ever-resourceful Bobby has found a spell to locate Lilith, she's in New Harmony, Indiana. But they're still outgunned and need Ruby's demon-killing knife in order to take Lilith on. Sam, against Dean's wishes, summons Ruby to ask for it. Ruby's her usual manipulative self, telling Sam he has more power than he realizes and that he's more than a match for Lilith, particularly because Lilith is off her guard at the moment, taking a little demon R&R (whatever that means). Dean turns up and

MASTERS OF DISGUISE Who are the Winchesters this week? When the cop pulls them over and asks to check Dean's ID, it says his name is Mr. Hagar. Sammy Hagar was the lead singer of metallers Van Halen after David Lee Roth left the band.





GOADING THE ENEMY

How to wind up your enemies. With hysterics, Ruby isn't happy. "I wish I could be there, Dean!" she yells when he leaves her in the trap. "I wish I could smell the flesh sizzle off your bones. I wish I could be there to hear you scream." To which Dean replies breezily: "And I wish you'd shut your pichole, but we don't always get what we want." [illegible]

argues with Ruby, leading to a scuffle, during which he relieves her of her knife and plants her smack bang in the middle of a Devil's Trap. She can only watch in frustration as the Winchesters head out to face Lilith without her.

In New Harmony, Lilith is up to no good during her vacation. She's possessed a little girl and is holding the girl's family, the Fremonts, prisoner and forcing them to treat her normally despite the fact she's clearly horrendous. They're terrified and horrified by the little girl's actions, but completely helpless under her control.

Dean and Sam leave for Indiana with Bobby, who refuses to be left behind because he considers himself part of their family ("Family don't end with blood, boy"). During the drive Dean tries to cheer himself up by launching into a rousing rendition of 'Wanted Dead Or Alive' by Bon Jovi, but they're stopped by a policeman because of a broken taillight. He's not really a cop, however. He's a demon, and thanks to his proximity to Hell, Dean has the ability to spot demons' faces beneath their human hosts', which comes in handy when he kills the cop before he can alert Lilith to their presence.

At the Fremont house, Lilith is making her captive family celebrate her birthday, the latest of many during their imprisonment, with a cake and party. The mood is somewhat ruined when she accuses the grandfather of trying to warn the neighbors that she's holding them prisoner. Despite his protests, she telekinetically snaps the grandfather's neck and he falls face-first into his plate of party food. Lilith *really* doesn't like it when people lie to her.

Meanwhile, the Winchesters and Bobby have staked out the house across the street, and Dean has identified Lilith as the little girl. They launch into a plan to sneak into the building using holy water sprinklers to keep all of Lilith's guard demons at bay. It works, but as they approach the house Ruby appears from nowhere and grapples with Dean, wanting her knife back. Sam overpowers her and the three of them enter the house together.

They walk into the house on tenterhooks. It's too quiet. Mr Fremont appears and tells them his possessed daughter is upstairs. He refuses to hide in the cellar without his wife, so Dean knocks him out, leaving Sam and Ruby to go upstairs and seek out their prey. Sam finds the little girl asleep in her mother's arms, and chillingly, the woman begs him to kill her daughter, terrified by what she's become. Sam is about to do the deed when Dean stops him in the nick of time: thankfully he can use his new vision to see that the little girl is just a little girl again. Lilith isn't there, which means the family is safe, but Lilith's still a threat.

It's too late for Dean, though. As the seconds to midnight tick away, he says goodbye to Sam, refusing to let Sam use his powers to defeat Lilith. "Keep fighting, and take care of my wheels," he tells him, and then the clock strikes. Dean's deal is due. A Hellhound appears and Dean, Sam, and Ruby barricade themselves in the next room, although it's only a matter of time until it gets its claws into Dean – you can't hold off a Hellhound forever.

There's a bigger problem, however. Dean suddenly looks at Ruby and realizes it's not her – it's Lilith! She tricked them by stealing Ruby's body! Before either brother can act, she has them pinned and opens the door to the Hellhound, which rips Dean to shreds.

Lilith raises her hand to kill Sam and the room floods with light. But when it dies down Sam is still breathing and Lilith is suddenly scared. He pulls out the knife to kill her but she's too quick for him, leaving Ruby's body to fall to the floor as she pours her demon-smoke self through a vent in the ceiling. With Lilith gone, a tearful Sam falls to his knees beside a very bloody – and very dead – Dean.

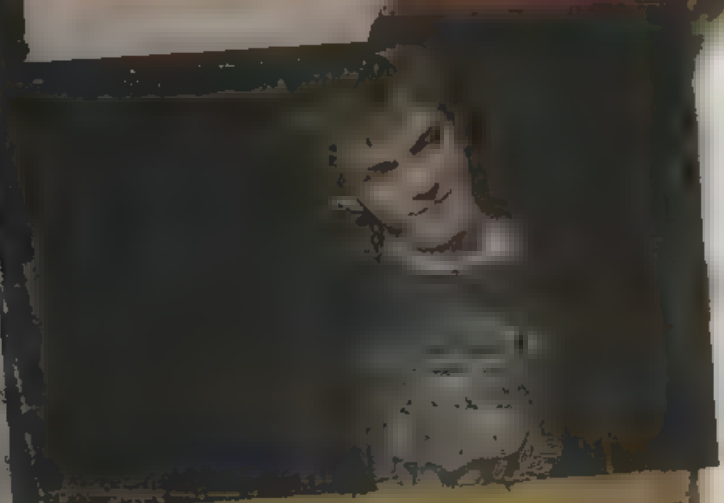
Meanwhile, in Hell, Dean is hanging on a collection of meathooks and screaming for help.

OW, THAT SMARTS.

Winchester wounds and woes.

It doesn't really get much worse than being torn apart by a Hellhound, does it? Well, apart from being suspended on meathooks in Hell perhaps. Poor Dean.

MYTHS &



WHAT DO THEY DO?

Ghouls are often as not depicted as shapeless, lifeless demons who spend their lives skulking. We don't just mean they steal their appearances – they have far more disturbing habits than that. Ghouls feast on the flesh of the dead, which entails them lingering around graveyards in order to dig up graves and eat the (thankfully unknowing, dead) within. Unfortunately, like the ghouls in *Jump The Shark*, many have a taste for *living* flesh and have mutated from mere hyena-like scavengers to full-on murderers. In fact, some legends say that ghouls can actually change into hyenas – or other animals – and use that form to lure unsuspecting humans into the desert so they can kill and eat them. Here's a tip for you: never follow a hyena into a desert, okay?

GHOULS!

GHOULS OF ARABIA

There are several sources for the word 'ghoul' – it's a derivative of the Arabic 'al-ghul,' which means 'demon,' as well as being taken from 'ghul' which in ancient Arabic folklore was a nasty class of djinn who were said to be the spawn of Iblis in the Arabic world. Iblis is Satan.

In Islamic folklore, ghouls were said to live in deserted places and burial grounds and feed on human bodies. They could change their forms at will, but always had one recognizable feature: asses' hooves. Kind of hard to miss, we'd wager.

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This issue: GHOULS

Words: Jayne Nelson

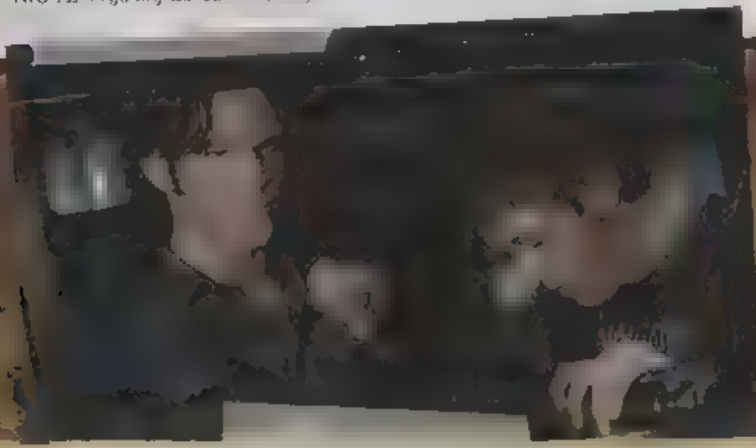
LEGENDS

ASIAN GHOULS

Japanese folklore is rife with ghoul mythology, and their versions of the creatures are split into two forms: the 'hannya', which hates young men and enjoys eating babies (lovely!), and the fabulously named 'jikinuki.'

Hannya – often featured on traditional Japanese masks – were once ordinary women, but found themselves transformed into demons after exhibiting intense feelings such as jealousy, hatred, or confusion. Jikinuki, by far the most common type of ghoul, are simply the spirits of greedy humans who are cursed after their deaths. Some are hideous to look at – so scary that anyone who sees them freezes in terror – while others can take on human form and live relatively ordinary lives. The only problem is that they have to eat the recently dead, which the jikinuki don't enjoy doing. They have no choice, however, and they sometimes have to scavenge possessions from the dead to use as bribes to get the authorities to leave them alone.

These ghouls are sometimes compared with the rakshasa (as seen in season two's *Everybody Loves a Clown*).



GHOULISH BEHAVIOR

Because ghouls are associated with all things dead and icky, it's common to say that someone who has an interest or a liking for similar subjects is 'ghoulish.' The term rose to prominence in the 1820s during an extraordinary spate of killings by William Burke and William Hare in Edinburgh, Scotland. In those days it was illegal to supply surgeons with cadavers for medical research, but the demand was still high and some doctors were willing to pay for fresh corpses. Graverobbing became prevalent, with Burke and Hare only two out of many men who decided that digging up the dead for cash was easy money. However, before long they decided it would be easier to skip the digging and kill living people instead. Seventeen victims later, their ghoulish crimes had shocked the world.

The one good thing that came out of their misdeeds was a law passed in 1832, making the supply of cadavers legal for medical research. No more ghoulish graverobbing was needed after that.

WHEAD? AN BLOODY BONES?

D[illegible]

SHE-DEVIL

Words: Nicholas Knight

You just can't keep a good demon down. After being forcibly evicted from her original host and a brief sojourn in Sam's body, the demonic Meg Masters returned to plague the Winchesters in *Sympathy For the Devil* in a whole new "meat suit." We talked to actress RACHEL MINER about playing the new-look Meg...

Meg Masters, the demon who loves to hear the sound of her own voice, is back, and it's not a moment too soon for *Supernatural* fans, who have been wondering what the feisty demon's been up to since season two. Originally inhabiting the body of actress Nick Aycox, the demon is now embodied by Rachel Miner, who shared her thoughts on the fun role with *The Official Supernatural Magazine*.

***The Official Supernatural Magazine*: Rumor has it that you've been acting since birth. That sounds spooky – care to elaborate?**

Rachel Miner: *Well*, I've wanted to act since I was about two years old because I grew up around it. My father [Emmy-winning director Peter Miner] directed television, so it was familiar to me, and I also love movies, plain and simple. I remember seeing *Alice in Wonderland* and wanting to go live in Wonderland, so I think that sparked some of it. I've always had a very vivid imagination – I could copy people I saw in the movie and wonder what it was like to be them.

You've been in a few horror films, such as *Penny Dreadful*, *Cult*, and *Hide*. Are you a fan of the genre?

To be honest, I'm more of a fan of old horror. I was working with my mom [writer and Off-Off-Broadway director Diane Miner] and she showed me some of it as a young girl, like *The Curse of the Cat People* and *The Shining*. Going back to some of the classics, I have to say that I really love that it's not as much about the gore, that it's more about what you *don't* see. I think *Supernatural* hits on that. When they have the scary stuff it's more about the psychological, and it's often a throwback to some of those classics. I do love this genre, and it's a lot of fun to get to play in it.

In your episode of *Fear Itself*, 'The Sacrifice', you played another supernatural creature, a vampire. Did that help you prepare for playing a demon on *Supernatural*?

Yeah. I guess it did. But also, I'm a big geek. I love fantasy, I read a lot, and I love history. I think *Supernatural* does a good job of drawing from a lot of folklore and myths and religious beliefs and all of that. I love reading [the mythologist and writer] Joseph Campbell and watching documentaries on myths, origins and beliefs, and I think all that really helped, because they stay true to that stuff on *Supernatural*.

Had you watched *Supernatural* prior to being on it?
I hadn't actually because mostly I don't watch a lot of TV As sa d I read a lot I m a dork read a ot and I watch a lot of documentaries, *but* ve now been watching *Supernatural* from the beg nning and catch ng up on it. I'm rea y enjoying t

have to say that what I ve really enjoyed wh le catching up on the show is the unique balance on this show between humour and fantasy and reality, and keeping it somewhat grounded in the rea but always hav ng that sense of play I th nk that's one of the most fun things about this show

Meg is a really popular character with *Supernatural*'s fan base, so the producers were undoubtedly looking for someone special to fill the role. How did you land this coveted part?
t was ust a regular aud tion I remember that went n and Eric Kr pke was in the room and was rea y, really nice That stuck out because it's not always that way

"MY INSTINCTS WITH THE CHARACTER WERE VERY SIMILAR TO WHAT BOTH JARED AND NICKI HAD DONE BEFORE."

Creator Eric Kripke also wrote the screenplay for your first episode, *Sympathy For the Devil*. Since you'd never watched the show, what were your first impressions upon reading the script?
What struck me from the moment read the aud tion sides was that th s was a rea y we written fun character with really great dialogue So from the aud tion on enjoyed every m nute

of working on the show for those reasons.

Setting aside for a moment what was in the script, describe the character Meg and her personality in your own words.
One of the things that informed Meg most for me was that she has lived for thousands and thousands of years. I don't think that can really be lost. She's obviously evil, she obviously does not like the boys and they've given her a hard time, so she plays with them. But I think that perspective of time and the amount of time she's been around probably plays in to it, whereas if you or I if were pissed off it would be so immediate. Meg's experienced so much life – or unlife – as a demon that there's a little bit more of relaxation and cat-and-mouse kind of fun to it all for her, because when you're out of Hell, which is not pleasant, and you get to be on Earth, you want to have as much fun as possible.

Did you watch Nicki Aycox's performances of Meg to get a feel for the character?
When I first got the role, it was pretty quick [to start filming the episode] so I hadn't gotten to see much of her work. I watched some clips, though and I really enjoyed her work. It was an interesting balance, because I didn't want to copy another actress' work – that wouldn't be very good. On the other hand, I wanted to make sure that I wasn't too far off from it, because that wouldn't make sense since it's the same demon inhabiting a different body.

> "MEG'S EXPERIENCED SO MUCH LIFE – OR UNLIFE – AS A DEMON THAT THERE'S A LITTLE BIT MORE CAT-AND-MOUSE KIND OF FUN TO IT ALL FOR HER..."

Likewise, did you get a chance to watch some clips of Jared Padalecki's turn as Sam being possessed by Meg in *Born Under a Bad Sign*?
I've seen it since then, but I hadn't at the time.

You mentioned balancing Nicki's performance with your own – what do you feel you brought to the character? In other words, how did you make this character your own?
What was interesting, which I think is a testament to the writing, is that my instincts with the character were very similar to what both Jared and Nicki had done before. I just kind of locked out in that my performance wasn't too far off with the choices I made.

Since demons don't usually go back to the same body after they've left it on *Supernatural*, are you worried that they won't bring you back to play Meg again?
I have my fingers crossed that I'll

return. It's their mythology, so I figure they can do whatever they want. And they have hinted at my coming back, so we'll see.

With Meg being such a fan-favorite character, what has the response been like for your portrayal of Meg?
I did take to heart that the character meant so much to people. I didn't realize it when I auditioned, but I found out soon after. I certainly understand that if you've been with the show for a long time and you know the characters intimately, it's always hard to see another actor coming in. That became something I took into consideration because I didn't want to disappoint people by taking away from what was originally there. But I think the fan response has been pretty positive. I really hope they're happy with it.

Fans can be scary sometimes, but demons are much scarier! Do you believe there are real demons out there?
Real *demons*? I don't know. I know there are some evil people, for sure. I think that there is truth to the fact that we always have a choice between our better side and our worse side, and I really like how on *Supernatural* they touch on the fact that the demons manipulate that. But personally, I haven't experienced any demons. I like to see things with my own eyes. I haven't run into anyone whose choices were being manipulated by a demon!

So no one on the set of *Supernatural* were acting as if they were being manipulated by a demon?
No, there were no bad eggs. Everyone was really cool. Jared and Jensen are gentlemen: they're really super nice. And the director, Robert Singer, and everyone on the crew were wonderful. It really was the nicest set I've ever worked on. And I love Vancouver. It's a beautiful, beautiful city.

> "IT DID WONDERS FOR MY EGO GETTING TO TAKE ON TWO VERY STRONG, VERY-MUCH-LARGER-THAN-ME BOYS."

You got to kick Jared Padalecki's ass in *Sympathy For the Devil*. Was that fun?
That was probably one of the most fun things about working on that episode! I actually love doing stunts and fights. The fight choreographer, Lou Bollo, is a wonderful man. He's a lot of fun to work with, so I had a really good time with that. And it did wonders for my ego getting to take on two very strong, very-much-larger-than-me boys.

Was your kiss with Jensen Ackles the most un-romantic kiss you've ever had to do? (Because Dean was so not into it.)
You know, I hate to disappoint because I know when you're watching a show it's wonderful to get caught up in things, but onscreen kisses are usually not romantic. It's technical, so there's not a lot of romance involved.

What was your favorite scene from *Sympathy For the Devil*?
There were a lot that I loved. I was really excited watching it. When it comes to some of the things that I got to do, I really loved all the dialogue, but in terms of the overall show I thought the Becky character was hilarious. I really enjoyed her scenes. And I thought Mark Pellegrino as Nick was really powerful. There were a lot of really great moments in that episode.

You mentioned that you loved all your dialogue. Do you have a favorite line from *Sympathy For the Devil*?
One of my favorite lines was, 'Not so easy without those super special demon powers,' which was really fun. But I loved every little moment. I also just loved coming into the room and saying, 'I always knew you were a big, dumb, slow, *dim* pain in the ass, Dean.' That line was so much fun to say!

DIRECTOR ADAM KANE COMES FROM A MUSICAL BACKGROUND, AND THE BULK OF HIS CAREER HAS BEEN AS A CINEMATOGRAPHER, BUT IT'S DIRECTING THAT TRULY INSPIRES HIM... ESPECIALLY WHEN HE CAN LATCH ONTO A STRONG EMOTIONAL UNDERCURRENT, SUCH AS THE BROTHERLY BOND BETWEEN THE WINCHESTERS IN *AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL*. *THE OFFICIAL SUPERNATURAL MAGAZINE* FOUND OUT MORE...

Words: Nicholas Knight

DIRECTOR'S CUT: ADAM KANE

Words: Nicholas Knight

***The Official Supernatural Magazine*: What was it that led you to working in the film and TV industry?**

Adam Kane: My father was a composer and my mother was a doo-wop singer in the 1960s, so for a long time I thought I was going to go into music – specifically composing. I found my way on to NYU's undergraduate film and television program studying anything that was music related. A series of circumstances led me into production – recording sound – which is where I discovered cinematography. The way that you can use pictures and compositions in lighting to tell stories captured my imagination in a way that nothing else had at that point, so I became a cinematographer. I came out to Los Angeles in 1990 and started shooting a number of low-budget features, which blossomed into working as a news cameraman for Associated Press, where I did crazy things like filming at the Murrah Federal Building bombing in Oklahoma City and shooting the O.J. Simpson trial. I also did independent movies and then eventually found my way into television. That occupied a good number of years, during which time I worked with a lot of really amazing directors, and I decided about six years ago that I'd like to find my own directorial voice because I thought I had something to offer. So I made a short film called *The Fix* that had Robert Patrick in it, and we did the festival circuit and I won all kinds of awards, which was great. After I shot the pilot for the TV show *Heroes* (as cinematographer), I approached the producers and asked them if they would have me direct an episode. They gave me an episode to direct in the first season (*67%*) and it took off from there.

Do you prefer directing to being a cinematographer?

I do. When I read a script, things jump off of the page to me visually. It became very clear to me that I had something to offer beyond cinematography.

You worked with *Supernatural* executive producer Bob Singer prior to directing *After School Special*. Did that help you get the gig?

Yeah, I knew Bob Singer and I also knew [co-executive producer] Phil Sgriccia. Phil had been Bob's editor on two different TV pilots that I shot as a cinematographer: one for CBS called *Sam's Circus* that didn't air, and one called *War Stories* with Jeff Goldblum that Bob directed for NBC which aired as a two-hour movie. So when I started directing, I called those guys and asked them if I could direct an episode of *Supernatural*, and they were very enthusiastic. I went up to Vancouver during an episode that Phil was directing and I shadowed him for a month. I learned about the show, learned about the rhythm of the crew, and that was a great experience for me.

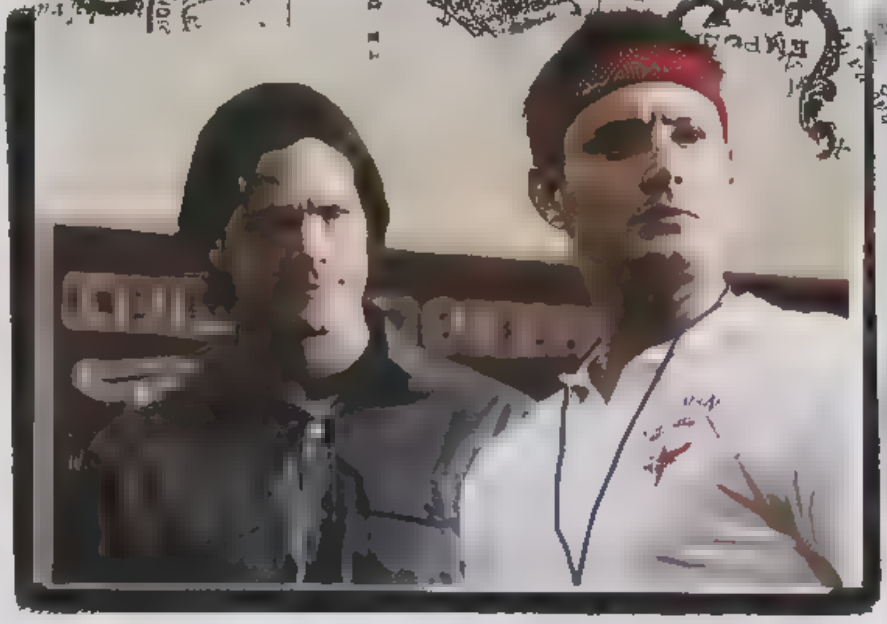
What did you think the first time you read the script for the episode *After School Special*?

I thought the episode was a departure from the rhythm of the normal episodes, because it deals heavily with the back-story of the two brothers. We learned more about their journey and what kinds of events shaped their personalities as adults. I love that kind of stuff. When you

deal with younger actors who are really talented, they have an inescapable honesty that you can tap into and capture on camera. Colin Ford and Brock Kelly, who played the young Sam and Dean in *After School Special*, were so in tune with the emotions that were built into the script and had such a great rapport with each other. I think the honesty they brought to their performances was really profound and more about the emotional journey of what kind of trauma these two kids went through when they were growing up with this very strange family dynamic. That part was really exciting for me.

The back-story made it a very important episode with regards to the series' mythology. Did that make coming in as a new director all the more daunting?

When I read a script, I'm always looking for the emotional undercurrent, so it wasn't daunting at all for me because any show that has a stylized visual feel, but always has an emotional truth to it, if it's going to be believable and engaging. The minute shows don't have that emotional truth, people turn the channel, because they don't care about the characters anymore.



"*AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL* WAS A DEPARTURE FROM THE RHYTHM OF THE NORMAL EPISODES, BECAUSE IT DEALS HEAVILY WITH THE BACK-STORY OF THE TWO BROTHERS..."

In what ways did you infuse your own style into *After School Special*?

I'm a big fan of getting the camera close to people, in their faces. I like being dynamic with the camera, so that you feel like you're a part of the action. I also have a penchant for overhead shots, so I snuck one or two in, because when you put the camera overhead it makes the characters feel very small and vulnerable.

What did you think of the final cut of your episode?

I think that the producers made it better. We directors get four days to tinker before we have to turn in our cut. I was off in New York prepping an episode of *Kings* when I was cutting *After School Special*, so I was doing a lot of stuff over the phone. The editor would do a cut, then send me a DVD and I'd watch it at night and send him notes over the internet. It's a very dissociative way to cut an episode, and I really don't prefer it that way, but it happens a lot with television directors who are booked on multiple shows back-to-back. I felt that my cut could've been better when I turned it in and I was thrilled to see the final edit because it really embodied that extra 10 percent that I was trying to squeeze out from off-location editing. They really shaped it in a very elegant, beautiful way.

You mentioned that you nearly became a composer. What did you think of the score for *After School Special*?

I think that it was very appropriate. An episode like this has a danger of becoming sentimental or potentially over sappy because you're watching two young kids who are dealing with the fact that their father is gone all the time, struggling with their own identity and transience because they're always on the move. The score had the potential for becoming overbearing, but the composer did a fantastic job of keeping that balance of making it tense while also supporting the emotional atmosphere.

With your background as a cinematographer, what was it like working with *Supernatural*'s own cinematographer, Serge Ladouceur?
Because of my background as a cinematographer, we were able to talk specifically about lenses and camera placement, and Serge really embraced that with open arms. He had terrific ideas about ways of colorizing the episode so that the footage we shot of the younger boys had a slightly different feel, but not so dated that it was jarring. Serge is fantastic; I just can't say enough great things about him.

Of course, I have to ask: what's it like working with Jensen Ackles and Jared Padalecki?
Those guys are terrific. They have a true affection for one another, and it shows on screen. And they love the characters they play. They get to drive a badass Impala, carry cool shotguns, and kill ghosts and demons – what else could one want? Plus they've got great senses of humor, which on long shooting days really helps.

"THEY GET TO DRIVE A BADASS IMPALA, CARRY COOL SHOTGUNS, AND KILL GHOSTS AND DEMONS, WHAT ELSE COULD ONE WANT?"

Any funny behind-the-scenes stories to share?
None that you could print!

The funniest moment from the episode was Jensen in his gym teacher's outfit. Did he seem uncomfortable in his short-shorts?
There was a big question mark over whether Jensen was going to go for that or not. It was written in the script as such, but we had prepared an alternate costume that was long sweatpants or something. Fortunately, he wanted to do it! I'm so glad he did, because the whole bit in that scene is about the visual gag, and he just *owned* it.

Did Jensen enjoy throwing the dodgeball at that kid a little too much?
He did! It was something we talked about, because he really wanted to do it and I was concerned that he was going to beam that kid too hard. That poor kid was a trooper. Jensen didn't go all out, but the funny part is that he plays it with the whole military gait and the kids are his soldiers, and one of them [really] wasn't prepared! It was great. It's one of my favorite scenes in the show.

Tell us some secrets we might not know about *After School Special*.
There was a lot of blood! I don't know if it's obvious to the viewers, but when we do gags that require blood, like the washroom scene in the beginning where the young girl's face is bashed against the mirror and the sink, it takes a lot of blood to [show up] on camera. It just takes a ton of the stuff. It's all edible, digestible, water-soluble blood, but we're not shy on the show about loading up the actors with blood hits or blood in their mouths. That was the real actress [Marie Avgeropoulos] by the way, getting her head slammed into the mirror – that was not a stuntwoman. We had a shot where the camera's at the POV of the mirror and her face comes right toward us, and that was really the actress. She was really into it, and that shot works best that way, when we can see that it actually is her getting her face smashed in.

Is the edible fake blood used on the show flavored?
No, it's not flavored – it's not cherry, it's not fruity or spearmint or anything like that. It doesn't taste very good at all, and sometimes the texture can be a little chalky. It's not harmful in any way, but it's not something you want to be digesting every day.

What was it like working with the Impala?
The Impala is a badass car. I wish I had one!

Out of the whole episode, which scenes were particularly memorable for you?
I liked the scenes with younger Sam and older Sam with the teacher. The way that storyline comes full circle is a really great storytelling technique that both actors played to the hilt. Chad Willett (as Mr. Wyatt) really did a great job of not being overbearing or too sentimental. He did a terrific job of finding that sensitive middle ground. Those were two of the most gratifying scenes to shoot for the show because of their emotional value.

The SIREN'S Call

Words: Brian Lowry

Stirring up resentments that had been brewing between Sam and Dean for some time, *Sex and Violence*'s Siren proved to be one of their most insidious foes. Actor JIM PARRACK, who played the Siren's Nick Monroe guise, tells us about playing this fatally seductive creature...

***The Official Supernatural Magazine*: So how familiar were you with *Supernatural* before landing the role of Agent Nick Munroe?**

Jim Parrack: I had actually never watched it, but I live close to the Warner Bros. lot so I had seen signs for it. One of the writers [Raelle Tucker] for the show I'm a regular on, *True Blood*, had written for it before. I had definitely heard of it, though.

How was Nick described to you, and did they initially spell out that he was this treacherous Siren?

I knew during the audition process, because part of the sides [script pages used for auditioning – Ed] were for scenes after that was revealed. I believe it was in the car and then another was with the two brothers at the end. He was originally described as an FBI Agent and that weird things started happening around him.

What did you like about the way Nick was introduced to the boys?

I liked that there was a red herring. I remember telling the director that if I treated the doctor suspiciously and was there to investigate her, it might help throw the viewers off. I don't know if that came off, but I thought it was a good opportunity to get everyone, including Sam and Dean, to feel that way.

As an actor, was it difficult playing Nick as this human without tipping off the fact that he was actually evil?

No, not really, because it seemed the only time the creature didn't have human characteristics or drives was visually. It seemed to act the way people do. Psychologically, it was normal in that it needed to be loved and have people loyal to it. Those emotions are human, so the eternal monster appearance was the only otherworldly aspect of it, and special effects takes care of that. On the inside, the thing operated the same as everyone else. It was pretty easy to think it made sense to see what kind of person somebody would love and then show that to them.

Speaking of presenting your heart's desire, how was that bonding moment between Nick and Dean?

I liked it, and I like Jensen Ackles a lot. He grew up one town over from me in Texas. I enjoyed sitting back, knocking

"I THOUGHT HE SHOULD BE AMBIGUOUSLY SEXUAL. AS THE FBI AGENT HE WAS A GUY'S GUY, BUT THIS CREATURE WASN'T A GUY OR A GIRL."

back fake drinks and telling stories. It was easy hanging out and having a nice time. I also liked the idea of playing this game of, "I'm confused. What could possibly be happening?" Then there was letting Dean know I liked him, was interested in music and admired his car. It was fun because you knew where we were ultimately going.

It's interesting because the Siren could have just been a bloodthirsty, needy menace, but they made it deceptive and manipulative.
Yeah, it could have been purely sensual, but if a creature like that had to deal with people, its instinct to receive isn't going to fly because of the way it looks. That's why it has to manipulate, and that doesn't happen anywhere else in nature. It could have been just a predatory sexual creature if it had been attractive enough that people would respond to it.

Once the brothers were enthralled and the Siren's true nature was revealed, did you approach Nick's mannerisms or speech pattern any differently?
Yeah, at that point, I thought he should be ambiguously sexual. As the FBI Agent he was a guy's guy, but this creature wasn't a guy or a girl. I tried to find something in between and enjoyed having control over these boys in a sexual way. It's a strange way to describe it.

Considering the Siren initially appeared as a female that seduced men, it was almost as if gender wasn't a factor for it.
Right, which is really bizarre. There had to be some way to get that across without being ridiculous. When the brothers found out I was the Siren, I couldn't keep acting like a woman and it wouldn't have been real if I kept going as a man. I tried to find something almost neutral, but displaying some kind of sexual tension. It was weird, and I don't know how I came up with that.

How was the scene of the Siren spraying toxin into Sam's mouth done?
The process was interesting. We did a couple of takes and one of them was from the side. A prop guy had a little squirt gun, which he held on the far side

"I FELT VERY LONELY THE WHOLE TIME I WAS FILMING. I THOUGHT THAT WAS PROBABLY THE MOTIVATING FORCE OF THIS CREATURE..."

How does this thing dea w th death if you're not a normal person?" Then it was like "Am I being lazy saying it s a creature and t doesn't know what s going on?" I remember Charles didn't want t to be too emotiona

Did they give you any indication of what the Siren looked like, or did you have to wait until the episode aired like everyone else?
No, met the guy [who played the Siren, and I actua ly only got to meet him when he was in his Siren getup It was cool. He came out, and needed some assistance walk ng because he had a that make-up on, and they just shot the mirror so it was actually his reflection I had an idea of what he ooked like, which was hideous and terrifying

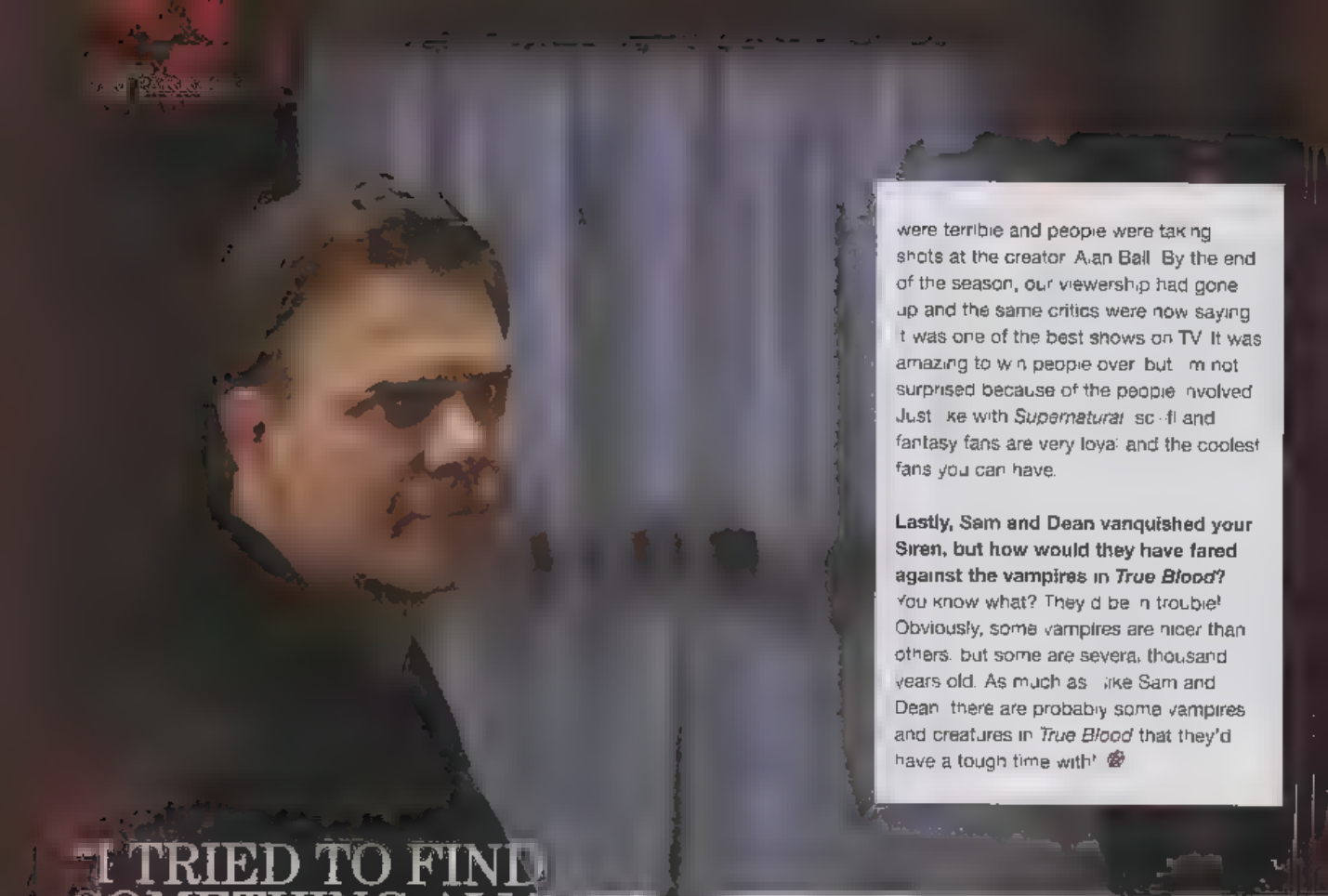
Would you have rather put up a fight than gotten a knife in the back?
Absolutely, and that has a lot more to do w th me t makes sense to flee and get out of there to survive but as an actor and a guy I wish had fought them The thing s strength was more ntellectual but would have rather done something other than run off

of my head so you couldn t see i There were a coup e of times had to look nto the camera and open my mouth wide They a ready had an idea of what they wanted to do with the specia effects was impressed how they put t a together especia ly w th shoot ng the actua l quid from the s de and somehow making it ook like it was com ng from my mouth There was ots of ,ok ng around about that particu ar shot.

We can imagine, since Jared and Jensen have such a famous sense of humor.
They're really funny guys. There was a little concern that maybe the liquid was a color or shade that nsinuated something inappropriate. They wanted to make it a little clearer than it was, so t didn't give the wrong impression. We certainly had a good time with that remember telling both those guys "I don t think my dad made a dollar this way!"

How did it feel not only to be that episode's spooky menace, but be pivotal in escalating that tension between Sam and Dean?
That was pretty coo L ke I ment oned d dn't know much about the show com ng nto t but once was there d rector Charles Beeson gave me a coup e of the seasons to watch in my trai er I rea ly got nto it, and going back to season two you can see that conflict start ng d dn't realize , was part of someth ng so s gnif cant I don t know where t s gone since but a good friend of mine [Katherine Boecher] had just gotten cast as L th. the demon they talk about throughout the season

What kind of direction did Charles give you when you saw your nasty reflection in the mirror?
I remember it being rea ly technica , because they had to put n the other guy to nvert that mage remember think ng



were terrible and people were taking shots at the creator Alan Ball. By the end of the season, our viewership had gone up and the same critics were now saying it was one of the best shows on TV. It was amazing to win people over, but I'm not surprised because of the people involved. Just like with *Supernatural*, sci-fi and fantasy fans are very loyal and the coolest fans you can have.

Lastly, Sam and Dean vanquished your Siren, but how would they have fared against the vampires in *True Blood*?
You know what? They'd be in trouble! Obviously, some vampires are nicer than others, but some are several thousand years old. As much as I like Sam and Dean, there are probably some vampires and creatures in *True Blood* that they'd have a tough time with!

I TRIED TO FIND SOMETHING ALMOST NEUTRAL, BUT DISPLAYING SOME KIND OF SEXUAL TENSION. IT WAS WEIRD.

You touched on working with Jensen, but how was it acting opposite Jared Padalecki and Jim Beaver?
I didn't work with Jim too much, but again, all those guys are from Texas so we had that in common. I liked Jared a lot, too. I feel these are like guys I grew up with, so I felt very familiar and comfortable with them. Jared's a funny dude. I remember being particularly impressed when Jensen did this shot where he had to go over and get the axe after he knocked Jared down. They're so comfortable with each other, and Jared was on the ground making fart noises with his mouth and rolling around. Jensen did what he had to do and didn't respond. After we were done, I was like, "Damn, that's pretty good concentration." After four years, I guess you get good at it and are having a fun time with each other.

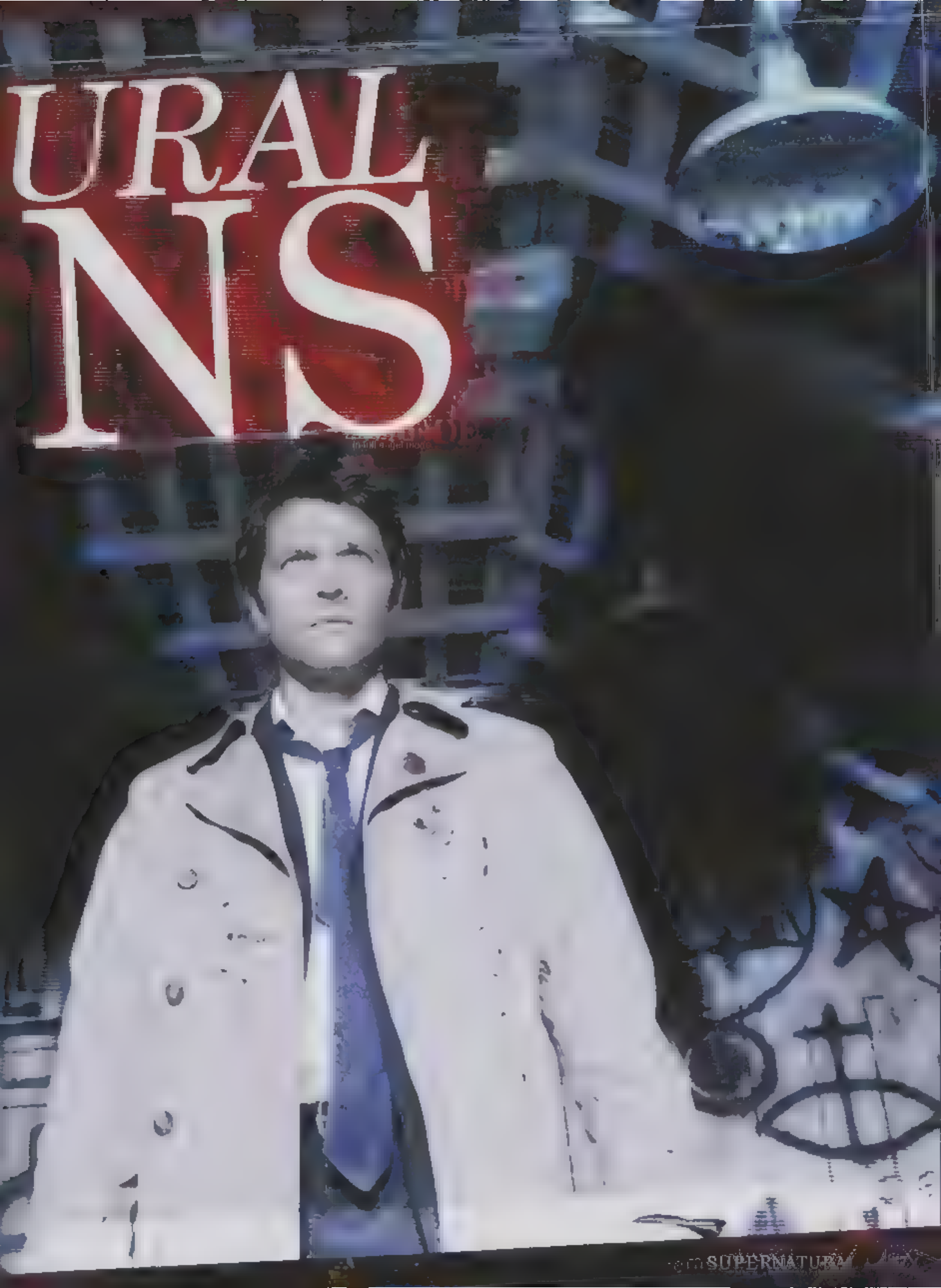
It seemed there was a lot of on-location night shoots. Was this a tiring episode to do?
Not really. For some reason, I prefer working at night. I just got married in October, so we got home at the beginning of November and by the beginning of December I was in Canada. It was really Christmassy and wonderful, which made me really miss my wife. I felt very lonely the whole time I was there. I thought that was probably the motivating force of this creature, who was just trying to be loved.

Viewers probably recognize you as Hoyt on another supernatural drama, *True Blood*. Has that show's success surprised you?
Noooooo! Initially, I was concerned. When we were doing it, we all really liked the concept and believed in the series a lot. When it premiered, some of the reviews

SUPERNAT VISIO

Words: Nicholas Knight

In Supernatural's sixth season, horrors have become increasingly epic, so have its visual effects. The show's visual effects supervisor Ivan Hayden talked to *The Official Supernatural Magazine* about demon smoke, blown-out bridges, and helping an angel get his wings...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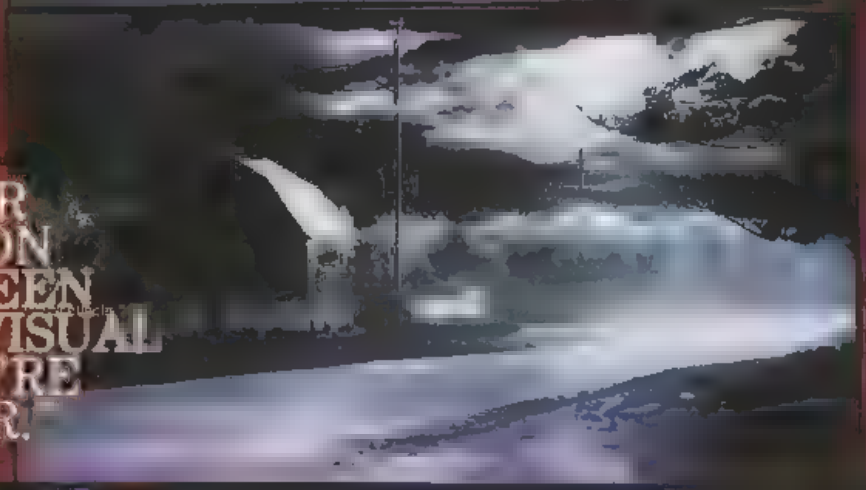


"IN SEASON FOUR THROUGH SEASON FIVE, THERE'S BEEN A SHIFT IN THE VISUAL EFFECTS – THEY'RE GETTING BIGGER."

"I WOULD ENJOY DOING AN EPISODE WITH CASTIEL WHERE HE'S FIGHTING WITH OTHER ANGELS AND THEY'RE IN FULL ANGEL MODE"

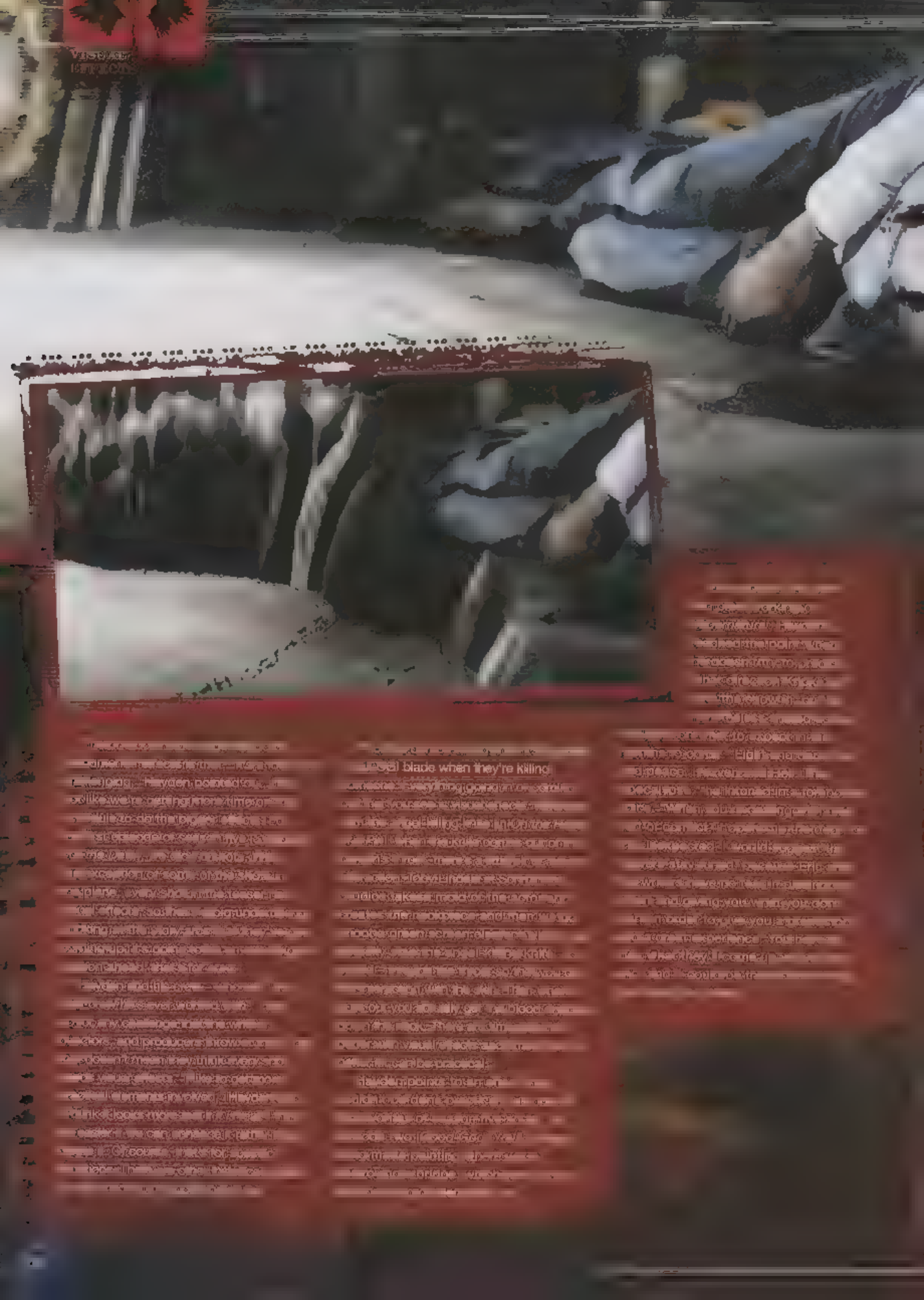
UNSEEN EFFECTS

"We did our job so well that it looked photo-real."

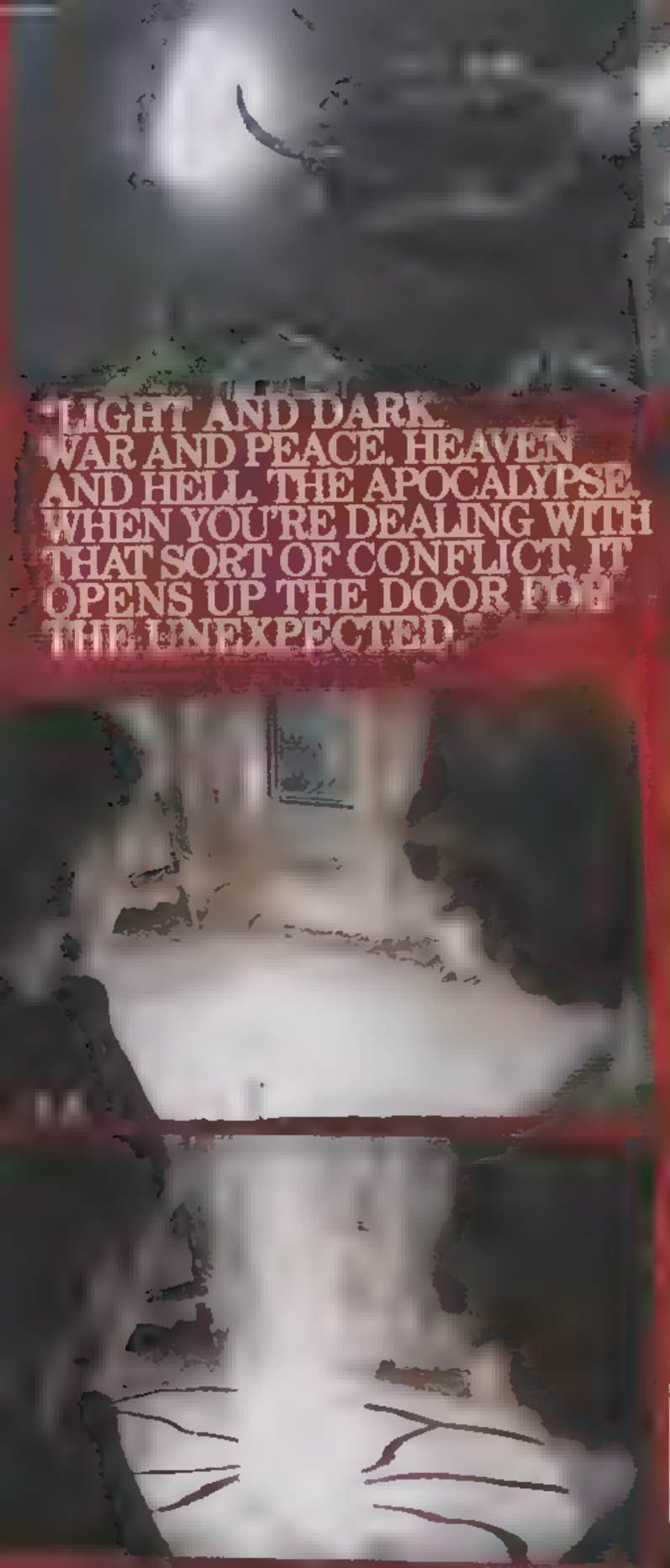
"There are lots of shots that we've done that haven't made it onto the show," Hayden revealed. "For the first Trickster episode [season two's *Tall Tales*], when Dean stabs him with the blood-soaked stake, we did this really cool gag where the Trickster's skin burned away, his skeleton burned away, and he turned into ash. We loved it. But Eric saw it and was like, 'That's cool, but it's way over the top,' which is an example of the difference in the trend of how things have gone. So we changed it to just the blue flame that is sort of the hallmark of a *Supernatural* fire.

"There was a Gordon head shot [in season three's *Fresh Blood*] that didn't make it that we loved. We did an element where Sam's got razor wire around Gordon's neck and the camera's over Gordon's shoulder and Sam pops through with the razor wire, then the practical head falls out of frame. Well, heads are round, they roll, and it'd take a while for them to settle. The way it happened, they cut straight from Sam to the head, so we had his mouth opening and closing and the blood pool spreading. In this instance standards and practices said, 'No way.' We did our job so well that it looked photo-real. It's a creepy, creepy effect.

"Then in *A Very Supernatural Christmas*, there's a gag where you see the pagan gods, and we did a shot where after they killed the woman god and the male god turns around and screams, Madge. It was scripted that it's in all his godlike glory, and we actually did the shot to completion where he turns into this tree creature. He's all wooden and gnarled and he screams. It was amazing – we loved the look of that shot. But it was one of the things where they were like, 'You know what, it's a little too on the nose.' They ended up just dropping it. The actor's [Spencer Garrett] actions were really great, and it didn't necessarily warrant an effects shot anyway. It's a fine line that we walk, but we learn from every one of those shots, so it's never a complete waste for us."



Seal blade when they're killing



"LIGHT AND DARK, WAR AND PEACE, HEAVEN AND HELL. THE APOCALYPSE. WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH THAT SORT OF CONFLICT, IT OPENS UP THE DOOR FOR THE UNEXPECTED."

EFFECTING THE OUTCOME

"Shots keep evolving right up to a few days before broadcast…

Supernatural's lead visual effects artist, Mark Meloche, informed us that they're always "Trying to expand our approach to keep things fresh, one can only do so many black eyes, smoke cloud, and knife stabs over five seasons and still be motivated. For example, our black demon smoke has always been a challenging work in progress. This year we've added a new outer particle layer to the typical inner core to give the smoke more life and depth. It's subtle, but the look is excellent. We've also added more 'crawl' and twist' to the smoke. Fans may also notice the camera roving around more during visual effects shots as we unlock the camera and further utilize available tracking technologies."

Meloche also commented on another excellent looking effect from *Good God, Y'all*. "My favorite series of shots is the blown-out bridge. Our 3D and 2D department knocked it out of the park. Using live elements of the boys nested into our compositions, and using photos and HD video reference, our artists created a photo-real scene including such nuances as flowing water caustics on the various bridge surfaces, atmospherics, and falling debris."

Not that season five was all the best effects – Meloche is particularly proud of the way things looked in the season four episode, *When the Levee Breaks*. "Sam ends up going through a painful withdrawal from consuming demon blood. One particular shot is of a series of black veins climbing down Sam's arms into his hands. The entire shot is synthetic. We used photos taken on set, 3D-generated arm, leg, feet, and hand geometry, and projected the photos back onto the 3D models. The POV of the hands was so close up, the construction of the shot had to be carefully choreographed. Depth of field, color correction, and final touch-ups were handled in compositing. The broadcast shot fitted perfectly into the context of a dazed and hallucinating Sam."

Even as the visual effects crew continues to expand their overall approach to keep things fresh, they're always kept on their toes by whatever shot they're working on at the moment. As Meloche explained, "Shots keep evolving right up to a few days before broadcast and there can be quite a few 'cooks in the kitchen.' Ultimately any creative note may derail a direction already being taken. The trick is to not become too personally attached to the work in front of you, still blow the viewer away, and remember that the final product is *never* the result of just one vision."

return to sender

The Winchester boys might have no fixed address, but *The Official Supernatural Magazine* does, and we want your letters. Feedback, burning questions, and even criticism are all welcome. Just go easy on that last one (or we'll send a vicious daeva after you!). If you're a US reader, send your queries and comments to: *Supernatural* Letters, PMB#1-296, 8205 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood CA 90046-5977. Everyone else please write to: *Supernatural* Letters, 144 Southwark Street, London SE1 0UP or email: supernatural@titanemail.com We regret that we **cannot** organize autographs or meetings with the actors, take orders for merchandise, accept sample scripts, join social networking groups, or pass items on to members of the cast or production crew. Letters may be edited for length or content.

four to the floor

Well, what can I say? "Wow!" and "Awesome!" spring to mind. Season four of *Supernatural* just blew me away, and the huge cliffhanger had the whole family shouting "Noooooo!" at the telly (you should've seen it!) Eric and his team excelled themselves; they really did an amazing job! I hope they feel proud of themselves because they should, and as for Jensen, Jared and Jim – what entertainers, I love them to bits. As for Ruby... well, I admit, I never saw that coming (I don't check out spoilers, it ruins the whole experience.) I'm usually quite good at predicting these things, but not this time. I was gripped to the end and now I'm on tenterhooks for the rest of season five and praying that Eric comes up with a reason for a season six. What will we do without our boys, eh? Well done one and all, we love you.

Janie Broomhead, York, UK

You weren't the only one surprised by Ruby, Janie! Check out our Top Ten Villains feature on page 23 to find out how she fared!

art lover

I was thrilled to read issue #9 recently, not just for the interview with Misha Collins – the best boost for a great show – but also the article about the production design and the art department. One of the things I've always liked about *Supernatural* is the look and feel it has, which contributed to the spooky but fun atmosphere. The props, the monsters, the lighting – all are just as important for me as the actors and the scripts. Imagine the show with clear lighting, slightly rosy hues, and glossy sets like a soap opera... ugh!

My favorite part of the show, however, has always been the motel rooms – I don't know if I can even explain why. Every episode my friends and I discuss the theme of the room and the tweeness of the furnishings, the patterns on the bedspreads and wallpaper, whether we own stuff like that in our homes (we often do!) and what it would be to stay in those places. In fact, when I travel these days I like to stay in equally tacky motel rooms because it's a forgotten kitsch that adds to the road trip experience. Whereas before my friends would think I was just being frugal or stupid, now they think I'm just hip and doing a 'Sam and Dean.' Now I just need to find a book of all their designs so I can build my new place and live in a permanent motel hell!

I love that the magazine doesn't just focus on the people in front of the camera – those guys behind the scenes are outstanding, too, and I hope they know it.

Dalziel Hansen, Canberra, Australia

If they didn't know it before Dalziel, they know now. Keep reading as we bring you more about the people both in front of and behind the cameras every issue!

spreading the word

I've been a fan of your show since the very beginning, and recently had the opportunity to introduce *Supernatural* to two of my friends. After watching an episode on TV they both picked up the first three seasons on DVD, and since then they have hooked their own friends and family on the show! Everyone who sees *Supernatural* enjoys it. So far in the last few weeks at least five or six people I know have been turned into new fans of your series. I just wanted to let you guys know the show is awesome and that you'll be having some extra fans watching season five when it starts up this fall. Have you ever thought about a contest or something for a walk-on role? As a fan it would kick ass to have the chance to actually be a part of the *Supernatural* experience. Looking forward to the upcoming season!
William Werner, Mount Wolf, PA

It's very good to hear Supernatural fandom is spreading, William!

supernatural and the city

Life in NYC as a *Supernatural* fan can be a tough one. You start babbling about Sam and Dean and hunting and people look at you like you're crazy! It's very hard here in the city to find people who watch the show and are avid fans. Many are turned off because it's too scary for them! I've recently found through Facebook a few fans in the NYC area, and we are all planning on having a 'Season Five Premiere Party,' but we're having the hardest time finding fans in the area. We're making a plea to all the *Supernatural* fans out here in the NYC area to come out and make this party the best ever! We're going to be a little coven of *Supernatural* addicts.

Thanks to the creators and everyone involved for creating this show and for helping us make new friends.
Name and address withheld

A premiere party sounds like a great idea! Could be the start of a trend. If any of the rest of you are on Facebook, remember you can become a fan of *The Official Supernatural Magazine* on there. Just look online for facebook.com/SupernaturalMagazine

fact or fiction

Yarns designed to keep the little ones quiet, or something more sinister in origin? Each issue we delve into the world of the strange to bring you a tale so terrifying, you'll struggle to sleep at night. This issue, we look at the Beast of Bray Road...

The Beast of Bray Road in Wisconsin is one of the most prevalent local legends in America. Unlike many such legends, however, descriptions of the Beast generally match up. An initially sceptical journalist, Linda S. Godfrey, set about recording all sightings of the creature, and was won over by the accounts of the witnesses she encountered, who seemed genuinely shaken by what they'd seen.

Commonly, the Beast has been witnessed as standing and walking on its hind legs with a slightly hunched stance, but able to move astonishingly fast on all fours. Its eyes have been described as yellow and sometimes reflecting light, and it's usually described as being close to seven feet tall, with a large muscular build and a pointed snout like that of a dog or wolf. Some have referred to the creature as a "werewolf," though there's no evidence it can change shape. The Beast is often seen crossing roads with long strides or leaps, before going to ground.

Witnesses have usually described a feeling of being in the presence of danger, an extreme fear that caused their hair to stand up on the back of their neck, causing them to flee. A group of four sceptical male students reported pulling up in their car beside an empty church in the area, and being watched by a tall creature standing on two legs with yellow eyes. The creature stalked their car, causing them to drive off in terror, while they saw something pursuing them on four legs for a distance. The students reported that the creature was definitely hostile. Another young man, accompanying his delivery driver uncle to a truck park to return his truck, reported seeing a large lupine creature by the roadside eating something. As they drew closer, the creature stood up on two legs, revealing a humanoid creature with yellowy eyes and a wolf-like head, which leapt across the road in a single bound. Returning in the same direction by car, the uncle stopped to investigate, wielding a handgun. Just off the road, he found a freshly killed deer, its entrails hanging out of it. Many witnesses have reported a sense of being watched by the creature, which is apparently skilled at hiding in cover. A contractor employed to collect roadkill reported collecting a freshly dead deer and placing it on the back of his pickup. Getting back into the truck, he felt it shake and looked back to see a tall creature with a wolf-like head, bent over the back of the vehicle and grabbing the carcass. The hunter drove off at speed for a short distance, hearing one of the metal fold-out ramps on the back of the truck being wrenched off as he did. Returning to the spot right afterward, he found no sign of either the deer carcass, or the metal ramp.

One witness as long ago as 1936 apparently reported disturbing the Beast as it dug into a Native American burial ground. The Beast apparently loped off on its hind legs while uttering what sounded like, "Gadara, Gadara!" In the Bible (Mark 5:2), Gadara was the place where Jesus cast evil spirits out of a possessed man, known as Legion. This has led some to believe the Beast of Bray Road was some kind of demon, condemned to walk the Earth in monstrous form.

Whether demon, werewolf, or a case of the mistaken identity of wolves or bears, we may never know what the Beast of Bray Road is.

TRIVIA The Beast inspired a film. *The Beast of Bray Road* in 2005, and the creature has often been written about in tabloid-of-the-bizarre, the *Weekly World News*

POSSIBLE EXPLANATION

Although most witnesses disagree, it's always possible animals like bears, coyotes, or wolfdogs (hybrids caused by a dog and a wolf mating) could have been confused with the Beast.

Guy Talk

Who you gonna call?

Ghoul getting grouchy? Wendigo worrying you? Siren singing you a song? Whatever your unexplained phenomena, the Winchester brothers are on hand to help...

Dear Sam and Dean,
Although my house is well heated and insulated, there's one place in the living room that is always cold, no matter how high I turn the heat up. If you stand in that spot, you always feel a chill down your spine like something walking over your grave. Reading up about it, I've seen that cold spots can be a sign of hauntings. Do I need to worry?
Linda Beaman, Minneapolis, Minnesota

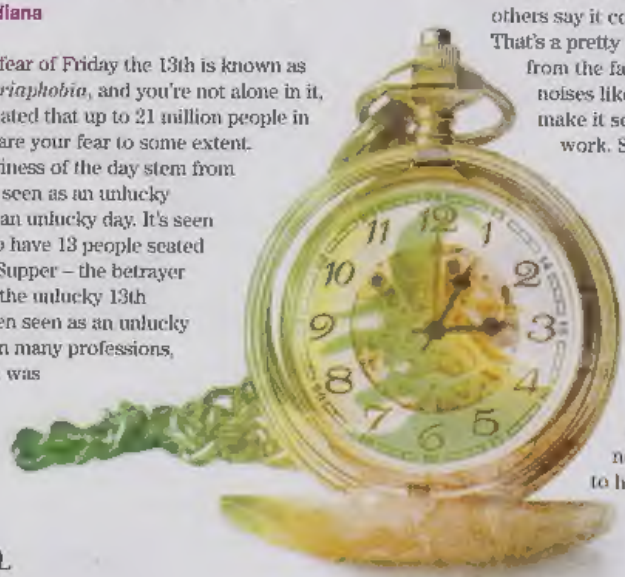
Dean says: You live in Minnesota? I'm surprised your whole house isn't like an icebox – that has to be one of the coldest states we've ever visited!

Sam says: In our experience, temperatures can drop in the presence of a spirit. If a particular part of your house is constantly cold with no variation, however, then I don't think that's the problem in your case, especially as you don't report any other effects. The real reason is more likely to be something as simple as a draft, or bad positioning of heating ducts.

Dean says: Even if there is a spirit there, if it hasn't done anything else to you, it doesn't mean any harm. We know vengeful spirits, and it doesn't sound too vengeful, just hanging around causing a cold spot. Seems more like it's a friendly ghost. Like Casper.

Dear Sam and Dean,
As I write this, there's a Friday the 13th coming up, and it always scares me. If I can I avoid doing stuff like driving or flying as much as I can on those days because of their reputation. Sometimes I even call in sick or book a day off work just so I can stay home. Am I right to be scared of those days?
Susan Kennedy, Gary, Indiana

Sam says: The fear of Friday the 13th is known as *paraskavedekatriaphobia*, and you're not alone in it, Susan. It's estimated that up to 21 million people in the US alone share your fear to some extent. Theories about the unluckiness of the day stem from a combination of 13 being seen as an unlucky number, and Friday being an unlucky day. It's seen as unlucky, for instance, to have 13 people seated at a table, like at the Last Supper – the betrayer Judas is generally seen as the unlucky 13th guest. Friday has often been seen as an unlucky day to start new projects in many professions, and according to scripture was the day on which Jesus was crucified, which accounts for some of its bad reputation.



Dean says: There's no conclusive evidence that more accidents happen on Friday the 13th than any other day, so you probably don't need to worry. In fact, since they say more accidents happen in the home, maybe calling in sick is a bad idea! All *Friday the 13th* really signifies is a movie about a psycho in a hockey mask.

Sam says: Didn't they remake that recently? I keep meaning to go see it...

Dear Sam and Dean,
Is there such a thing as the Witching Hour? My mom always told me it was the time of night when witches and demons and ghosts are at their most active and powerful. Ever since I was a kid I've always been scared of getting up in the night, even to go to the bathroom. Am I just being stupid believing in it?
Lee Dickinson, Norwich, England

Sam says: That's a pretty common belief, that there's a point in the night where ghosts and other supernatural beings are more powerful, and black magic at its most effective. The thing is though, there's not much agreement about when that time is – some say it's midnight, while others say it covers the period between midnight and 3AM. That's a pretty long hour! It's likely this belief just springs from the fact that what with the darkness, unexplained noises like your house shifting, and the quiet just make it seem like there are supernatural forces at work. Some things are just scarier at night is all.

Dean says: Tell me about it – I've seen what your hair looks like when you've slept on it! Truth is, in our experience, spirits, demons, and other monsters can be active at any time of the day. Most of the ones we go up against sure don't seem to need any sleep. I don't know if that makes you feel safer or not, Lee. Still, at least you won't have to hold it in all night anymore!

Next time in
The Official Supernatural Magazine...

COMING UP

GUARDIAN ANGEL

Misha Collins talks Castiel!

SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL

Mark Pellegrino on playing Lucifer!

BATTLE ROYALE!

JARED and JENSEN on season five so far!

- NEWS!
- CLASSIC EPISODE!
- ASK THE WINCHESTERS!
- MYTHS & LEGENDS!

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